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Kent on Sunday

www.kentonsunday.co.uk December 8, 2013

Mid edition No 585



PROFILE »

Minister's rise up the ranks

Face-to-face with MP Helen Grant

TRIBUTE »

Nelson Mandela: Tributes to a legend

Reflections on the life of the iconic global statesman

LITERATURE »

Top 10 authors inspired by county

The classic novels with a very Kentish flavour

IN-DEPTH »

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Kent on Sunday

December 8, 2013 **No 585** **www.kentnews.co.uk**

Why the lessons of the past define the path to our futures

IN A week which began with the first advent calendar windows being excitably thrust open, it would end on a rather sobering note.

The death of Nelson Mandela, a statesman so majestic in his manner and methods, was announced just as the county was bracing itself for the anticipated tidal surge.

While it will come as little to no comfort for the 30 or so households which found themselves flooded in the early hours of Friday morning, we had been expecting far worse.

For those living near the coast it made for a tense evening.

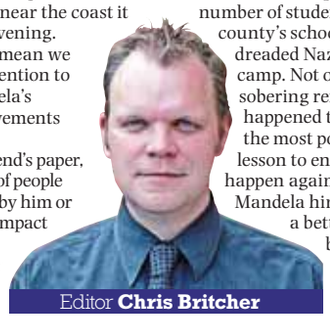
It did, however, mean we could turn our attention to focusing on Mandela's remarkable achievements and his legacy.

Inside this weekend's paper, we speak to a host of people who were touched by him or saw first hand the impact he had on South Africa. It makes for fascinating reading amid the reams of content already generated over the last 48 hours.

Coincidentally this week, we met Maidstone MP Helen Grant, a woman whose name tends to go with the prefix 'the first black female Tory MP'. Whatever your politics, her journey from council estate to the corridors of power at Westminster makes an enthralling read.

But perhaps out of all the articles you read this weekend, I'd urge you to look at our moving piece on Auschwitz. Our reporter joined a number of students from the county's schools to visit the dreaded Nazi concentration camp. Not only is it a sobering reminder of what happened there, it is perhaps the most powerful history lesson to ensure it can never happen again. We must, like Mandela himself, all strive for a better tomorrow built on friendship, not hatred.

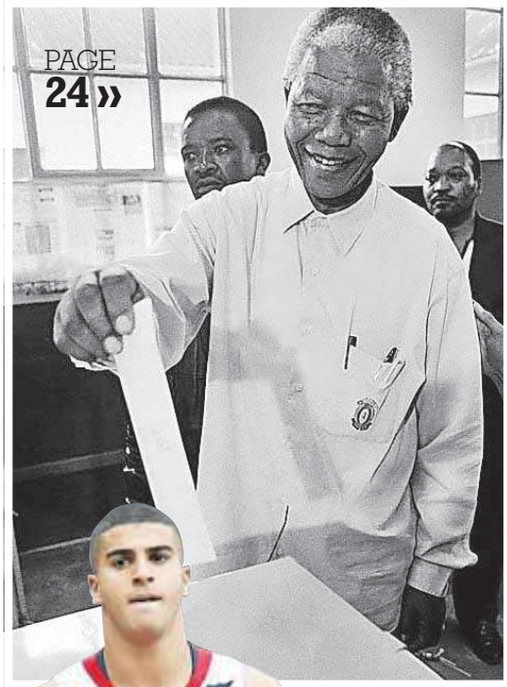
Have a good weekend.



Editor **Chris Britcher**


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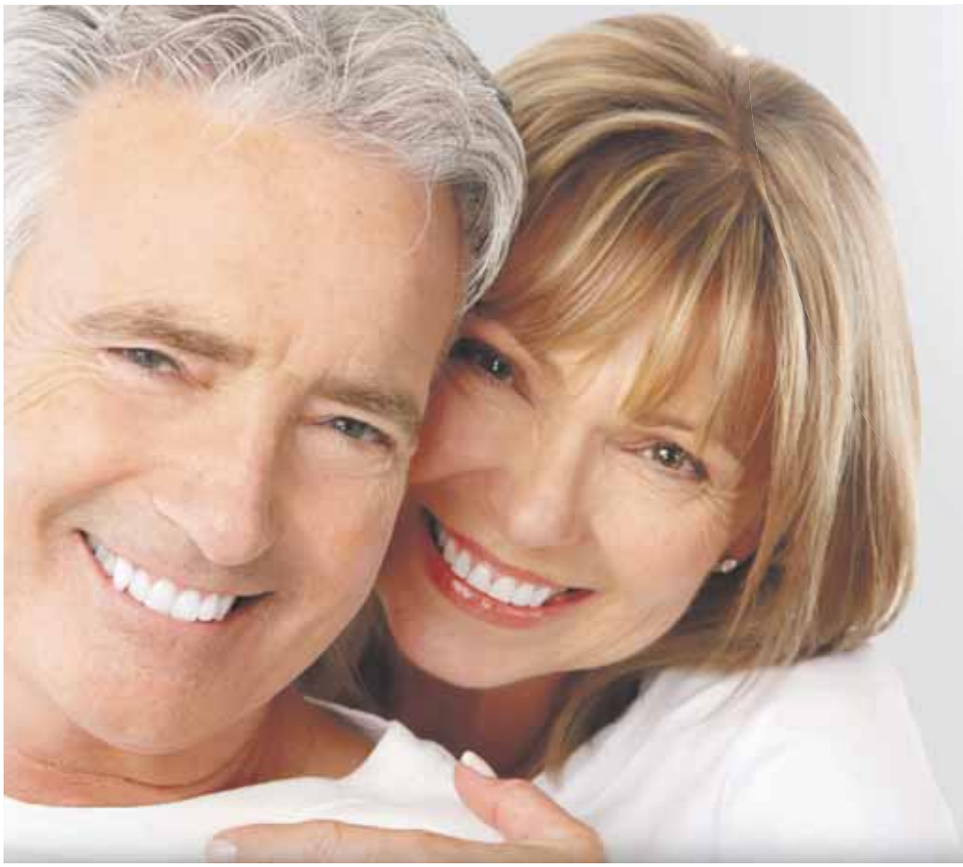
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WASH OUT: Sandwich (top left and below) and Faversham (all others) were worse hit by the tidal surge caused by storms along east coast

Towns flooded but surge not as bad as first feared

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

FAMILIES, friends and neighbours rallied together on Friday and proved community spirit is still alive after a huge tidal surge hit parts of the county leaving dozens of homes flooded.

Thousands of sandbags were provided at pick-up points in the most threatened areas and emergency rest centres set up in leisure centres for the hundreds of people evacuated from their homes ahead of the surge in the early hours of Friday.

Severe weather warnings – meaning danger to life and property – were put in place in areas including Sandwich and Medway.

On Thursday night, a number of homes in Seasalter, near Whitstable, were evacuated, as were residents in Sandwich.

But widespread chaos failed to materialise – it was predicted to be the worst such surge in 30 years with floods likened to those of 1953 which devastated the east coast – and for many it passed by without incident. Others, however, were not so lucky and were left facing a major clear-up operation.

People living in Faversham, Sandwich and parts of Medway reported flooded streets and the Environment Agency said there were more than 35 flooded properties.

A second, anticipated, surge coincided with the high tide on Friday afternoon, but passed off without incident.

However, Dover Coastguard rescued two babies in pushchairs after they were hit by a large wave on Louisa Bay in Broadstairs caused by the surge.

Otherwise, emergency services failed to receive the deluge of calls expected.

And so the clear-up began.

The Secret Gardens of Sandwich – or Salutation Gardens – was badly hit, with an estimated £100,000 of damage.



The popular attraction holds one of the biggest private collections of plants in the country.

Head gardener Steve Edney said on Friday: "The working area of the garden is completely under water, so workshops, heated greenhouses, sheds and plants.

"A bridge in the garden has been uprooted and pushed into a tree. There are benches all over the place and under water.

"One shed has been uprooted and tipped to one side. It's got mowers and chippers in there."

Authorities thanked people for the "great community spirit" and began stepping down precautions that were in place on Friday.

Paul Watkins, leader of Dover District Council, one of the districts at risk of flooding, said: "We would like to say a big thank you to the local community and to all our partner agencies who have worked together so well during this emergency."

The Environment Agency had teams out in force inspecting and repairing damaged sections of walls and banks.

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seven days

Making the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Police remind parents of online chat dangers

A 26-year-old man from East Sussex will appear in court later this month to face charges of rape and grooming.

Joseph Bell, from North Street in St Leonards-on-Sea, was remanded in custody by magistrates in Maidstone on November 30.

He is alleged to have contacted a 14-year-old girl on a social media website and then met her in the Tunbridge Wells area. He faces three charges of rape.

Mr Bell is also charged with a count of assault against a 16-year-old boy.

He is scheduled to appear before Maidstone Crown Court on December 20.

Police have reminded parents to speak to their children about the perils of meeting people they meet online.

As train fares are pegged back, details of timetable over Christmas revealed

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

RAIL commuters are being urged to check on train times over the coming weeks, after Southeastern unveiled its new timetable – and confirmed its services over the festive period.

The network will see final trains on Christmas Eve leave London terminals between 7.30pm and 8pm.

There will then be no service on Christmas Day or Boxing Day, with the exception of special half-hourly services between Ashford and St Pancras on Boxing Day. There will also be free parking at both Ashford and Ebbsfleet on that day.

And, as normal, there will be extra late-night services running on New Year's Eve into the early hours of New Year's Day to bring home revellers.

There will be no services through Gravesend for 15 days between December 22 and January 6. This is to allow Network Rail to undertake a £19 million upgrade of the station.



SERVICES: Don't miss the last train

Southeastern's new train timetable will come into force this Sunday.

The new timetable includes minor changes for what the train operator says will "improve connection times and punctuality". It follows on from the tweaked 'leaf' timetable, designed to combat delays caused by the annual problem of 'leaves on the line'.

Alison Nolan, a spokesperson for Southeastern, said: "The bulk of the changes apply to the Sunday service and we'll be running a couple of additional services, including some later trains home in the evenings.

"We encourage all our passengers to check for changes to their train times by picking up a new timetable from our stations, from our website or National Rail Enquiries."

There was some good news, however, in the Chancellor's autumn statement this week. It pegged back rail increases, insisting ticket prices had to rise in line with inflation.

Previously, operators were able to go as high as 1 per cent above the Retail Price Index.

Southeastern says the new fares will be revealed later this month, once it has adjusted them in line with the new regulations. They come into force on January 2.



SAVED: MIU will stay open after March

Threatened injury unit is given reprieve

FAVERSHAM's minor injury unit has been thrown a lifeline after health chiefs agreed to a further consultation on controversial plans to close it next March.

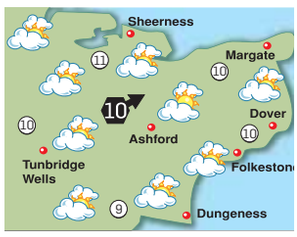
It follows a meeting by Kent's health overview and scrutiny committee (HOSC). Its members asked for the decision to shut the service to be put on hold while the matter is consulted on further.

Dr Mark Jones, clinical chair of the NHS Canterbury and Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group CCG, said: "We have agreed to do everything in our power to keep Faversham MIU open beyond the end of March 2014 to allow further consultation with the people of Faversham, councillors and the local MP.

"We will be talking to the current provider of the minor injuries unit in Faversham about their ability to continue the service beyond the end of March 2014 to allow this further consultation."

The CCG previously said it had little choice but to close the unit after efforts to find someone to take over the contract after March proved fruitless.

Campaigners fighting to stop the closure were pleased but warned against the CCG making "empty promises".



TODAY: Dry with some sun and variable cloud. Gentle winds. Max temp 8-11C (46-52F). **TONIGHT:** Dry with clear spells at times. Min temp 4-7C (39-45F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	02.25	6.6	14.56	6.3
Margate	03.16	4.7	16.00	4.6
St Mary's	08.23	5.5	20.51	5.1

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 10C	Min 4C
Tuesday	Max 9C	Min 3C
Wednesday	Max 8C	Min 3C
Thursday	Max 10C	Min 4C
Friday	Max 9C	Min 3C
Saturday	Max 9C	Min 4C

X Factor's Dermot to host charity auction

X FACTOR presenter Dermot O'Leary will have no time to rest after the much-anticipated series final later this month as he prepares to shoot down to Kent to host a charity auction in aid of a school for children with disabilities.

Organised by Mayor of Broadstairs and St Peter's Rosalind Binks and Frank Thorley from Thorley Taverns, the fund-raising dinner, at the Pavilion on December 18, will see guests bid money in the hope of bagging one of the unique and exciting prizes on offer.

All proceeds will go towards IT equipment and a new minibus for the Foreland School, in Broadstairs, which looks after children with profound, severe and complex difficulties such as cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome and autism.

Cllr Binks said: ''Every day they face bigger challenges than most of us will ever know. The school and its staff do a fantastic job, helping them learn and live a fuller life. But they need special equipment and that doesn't come cheap.''

Trio on bail after cops smash drugs factory

THREE men have been arrested after police uncovered a cannabis factory generating drugs with a street value of some £23,000.

Officers discovered about 58 cannabis plants under specialist lighting at a building in Windmill Street.

A 32-year-old Gravesend man, along with a 27- and 29-year-old, both from Essex, were arrested on suspicion of production of cannabis and suspicion of possession with intent to supply both class A and B drugs.

All three have been bailed until February 10 pending further enquiries.

PC Adrian Parsons, Gravesend drugs liaison officer, said: ''Although this factory was discovered by police officers on foot patrol in the town, this is a good example of how the public can help us to deal with these types of properties.

''If you smell what you believe to be cannabis growing, just as we did on the night, then we would encourage you to report it to us.''

Funeral for pensioner found dead in shop

FRIENDS and family bid their final farewell to a pensioner found dead in a Chatham shop on Friday.

The body of Harjit Chaggar, 69, was found in the basement of a food shop in Luton Road in September, almost two weeks after her family had reported her missing.

She had last been seen alive on September 2 in the Luton Arches area. Her body was found on September 14.

It sparked a major police investigation into her death.

Three people have been charged with her murder and await trial. All three worked in the Sani Globe shop where her body was found. They have all been remanded in custody.

The shop has subsequently shut and been taken over by new owners.

Her funeral service took place at the Sikh temple in Rochester before her cremation at Medway Crematorium.

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Search steps up to find top cop to lead force

THE search for the top cop who will take on the huge challenge of leading Kent Police gathers pace this week as contenders prepare for a grilling by Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes in the first round of interviews.

Outgoing Chief Constable Ian Learmonth announced in October that he would be retiring in January after three years at the helm of the county's force.

Mrs Barnes will be holding interviews on Tuesday and Wednesday in the hope of filling the position by January.

In an in-depth profile interview with KoS last week, the PCC confirmed the shortlist consists of just men, which she admitted she



was disappointed about.

Chief Con Learmonth took over from Mike Fuller in 2010. Announcing his decision, he said: "The force has the best officers and staff I have ever come across."

Plans for giant business park by M20 go on show

PLANS for a giant commercial business park by junction eight of the M20 at Maidstone are being unveiled to the public on Tuesday.

The proposals by development firm Roxhill could secure 600 jobs at the 500,000 sq ft site, which sits between the M20 and A20, an area identified as a strategic location for business growth and development.

The park would provide employment space, including the potential for large-scale warehousing, manufacturing and offices.

Roxhill is holding a public exhibition to gauge public feeling at the Mecure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel from 3pm-8pm on Tuesday.

...also

Lengthy road journeys

DRIVERS using the A2 between Brenley Corner and Canterbury from Monday are being warned of lengthy diversions as resurfacing work is carried out that could add up to 40 minutes to journeys.

The A2 will be closed overnight, 8pm-6am, from December 9-18.

More firefighter strikes

FIRE crews will walk out on strike again on Friday and Saturday as part of the latest industrial action in a row over pensions.

The strikes will take place between 6pm and 10pm on both evenings.

Emergency calls will be answered, but there will be a reduced service.

Shake-up at County Hall

COUNTY Hall chiefs will unveil a proposed new directorate structure at a full Kent County Council meeting on Thursday.

The drastic move is a result of further spending cuts and involves the creation of four new directorates to run KCC services, consolidating current departments.

Hunt for foster carers

THE desperate search for more foster carers steps up a gear this week with a special information event in Maidstone.

It forms part of a major drive to find families for vulnerable children.

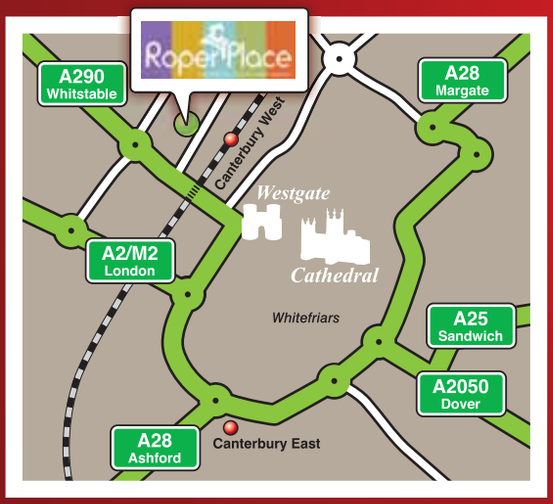
KCC hopes potential carers will attend Tuesday's event at 7pm, Oakwood House.

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Sporting ambition amid the corridors of power

She grew up on a tough northern council estate and brought up by a string of strong female role models. Little wonder MP Helen Grant has never taken 'no' for an answer in life. Now a junior minister, Marijke Cox finds out just what makes her tick and just why she nearly kissed the Prime Minister...

WHATEVER your political persuasion, you cannot help but be rather impressed by the meteoric rise of Helen Grant.

Raised by a single mother in a tough northern council estate, and bullied for the colour of her skin, she is the living embodiment of social mobility.

A former card-carrying member of the Labour Party, she now holds the distinction of being the Conservative Party's first black female MP and now a junior minister.

What's more, she embarks on a Westminster career having founded her own legal practice in Surrey, a core component of which was tackling the issue of domestic abuse.

She's also raised a family – with two grown-up sons in which she is clearly very proud.

All this and she's still just 52.

In short, she is a powerful, successful career woman in a world where, put bluntly, white men still dominate.

Yet she remains something of an enigma in the county she represents; dogged by a sluggishness to live in her constituency and some headline-grabbing issues with regard the thorny issue of expenses.

Just last month, she was left red-faced when she was unable to answer five simple sports trivia questions during a media interview at Maidstone Hockey Club – one of which saw her think the town's football club only left the Football League last year. In fact it was 21 years ago.

Perhaps it was a little unfair to put her on the spot.

But, unlike so many other MPs, she prefers to speak to the media via the PR team she surrounds herself with.

The result is direct contact is rare.

Her quick rise through Westminster combined with her commitments in Maidstone, she explains to KoS, is the real reason she is often unattainable.

Today, however, we have been granted face-to-face access at her offices deep within the labyrinth of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport – just a short hop across the road from the House of Commons.

Her office is large; her desk at its head, a large conference table stretches down one side. On the other, an area with sofas and comfortable chairs, in which we find ourselves perched.

Out of the window the familiar face of Big Ben peers around the corner.

She is immaculately presented, bright, friendly and articulate.

Pressing her on the more contentious subjects, however, and you get a glimpse of the steel which has no doubt helped propel her through the ranks. She becomes visibly fractious.

But then she admits that, while enjoying the job, the last 18 months or so have not been easy.

Receiving her first government appointment just two years after being elected in 2010, she was given the dual role of minister for justice as well as women and equalities.

In the second Cabinet reshuffle in October this year, she retained the equalities brief and was given the role of minister for sport and tourism.

For Mrs Grant, a self-confessed

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Helen Grant pictures: ADY KERRY



« PAGE 9

sports nut and former under-16 judo champion for the north of England and southern Scotland, it was something of a coup.

But her quick rise as one of David Cameron's A-listers has led to scorn, with political rivals – not without an agenda, of course, with the General Election around the corner – claiming she is a career politician and neglecting her constituency of Maidstone and the Weald.

She remains unfazed, however, instead pointing out that she has fully embraced life in the county, uprooting her family from their former home near Reigate, including her 72-year-old mother, who sold her house to move to Kent.

"I don't think I've neglected my constituency due to the ministerial appointments because that's the reason why you work round the clock – to make sure you don't," she explains.

"There are a lot of issues within my portfolio that I think are good for my constituency, and many of my constituents seem proud of the fact their MP has been promoted."

Following in the footsteps of the sometimes fierce Ann Widdecombe, who stepped down, Mrs Grant's 2010 success, saw her see off a tough and hotly-tipped challenge by the Liberal Democrats. She also become the Conservative's first ever black female MP.

"It doesn't grate that it's always mentioned," she says.

"I'm Helen, I'm me, I've always looked like this. I like the colour of my skin and I've never not liked it.

"I don't think it has hindered me or helped me; for me it's a non-issue.

"The important issue is who I am; that I'm good and true and look after my constituents – that really is all that should matter.

"I suppose on the positive side, where it might do some good, is it's broken down one of those glass ceilings – it's shattered now I'm through – yes, the first black female Tory MP.

"I think it's for the people's good, for the good of our country; the face of modern Britain.

"You should seek to represent the society that you aim to look after and if there is no diversity at all in Parliament, that can't be good. If it was just full of men, no women, no diversity, that's not good for Britain."

Perhaps it is a sad sign of how we perceive success, but there remains a waft of positive discrimination for Mrs Grant's climb through the Tory ranks.

Certainly, she is very in keeping with David Cameron's new-look Conservatives – taking a conscious step away from the perception of the Tories being an all-boys club of white, middle to upper-class men.

Growing up on the Raffles estate – a once notorious council housing development in Carlisle, Cumbria – Mrs Grant's own upbringing was, after all, in stark contrast to such a background.

Raised by her mother, grandmother and great-grandmother after her parents separated (she admits to only developing a relationship with her father when she was older), it was this strong, matriarchal upbringing which would ignite a fire in her to challenge the political stereotypes.

"Some people have written about me in the past and given the impression it must have been awful growing up on a council estate, but it wasn't awful, it was fine," she said.

"I had a really happy, healthy childhood. I was born in London, but my mother moved me to Carlisle when I was a baby. There was an awful lot of community spirit about the place."

She was tough too. Growing up in the 1970s, the colour of her skin bought her unwanted attention from bullies. She simply stood up to them – learning judo as a method of self-defence.

She adds: "There wasn't a lot of money, but there was a lot of love and aspiration.





"I'm Helen, I'm me, I've always looked like this. I like the colour of my skin and I've never not liked it. I don't think it has hindered me or helped me"

Helen Grant, on being the first black female Tory MP

IN OFFICE: Helen Grant replaced Ann Widdecombe (pictured). Above right, she watches David Cameron





"It was a very strong matriarchal family, everybody worked: my mum was a nurse and my grandmother a sister. When I came home from school the expectation was that I got on with homework and then I went out to play... that was the order.

"There was a very high expectation of work and study and I suppose working hard and aiming high was the philosophy in the household."

There's no denying Mrs Grant has used that philosophy to get where she is today.

After setting up a legal firm in Croydon in 1996 with her husband, Simon, she admitted she soon needed a new challenge.

"It must have been around 2004," she remembers,

"I'd been a solicitor for a number of years, I'd had my children, I'd built my own practice up and the firm was doing well, the boys were no longer babies. You get to the point where you think, I've achieved the goals I set and I'm not old yet.

"Do I coast, have an easy life and keep going, or do I take stock and set myself a new set of goals?

"So it was just a matter of what next and that's where politics came in."

Despite it being a traditionally safe seat, it was to be a close race with few able to call it between Mrs Grant and high-profile activist Peter Carroll, the popular Lib Dem behind the hugely successful Gurkha justice campaign.

But on polling day, there was little doubt who the people wanted with Mrs Grant securing 48 per cent of the vote and Mr Carroll 36 per cent.

She admits while she hadn't been particularly party political before her parliamentary quest, she had always held strong views.

Her mother was a campaigner who set up the first women's refuge in Carlisle and although Mrs Grant insists her mother did not align herself to any particular party, this fight for justice must have rubbed off on her impressionable shoulders.

But the Conservatives were not her first port of call. Instead she "took a look" at the Labour Party.

Attempting to skirt the issue, she quickly points out it wasn't for her before swiftly moving the focus onto her passion for the Tories.

She was, however, a member of Tony Blair's party. A big step for simply 'taking a look' some might argue.

"Some like to build it up, but it was just for a few months. It was a mistake," she said.

> **"There was a very high expectation of work and study and I suppose working hard and aiming high was the philosophy in the household"**
>
> **Helen Grant,** on her childhood

"Fundamentally, I'm a Conservative. It was when David Cameron was elected leader of the party I heard him deliver a speech in which he spoke about things I could relate to, about there being a whole generation of people out there who worked hard, who wanted to do well for themselves and their families, but also believed in social justice.

"I remember saying to my husband 'he's talking about us'.

"I believe in low taxes, being tough on crime, strong families, personal freedom, business doing well – that's how I think.

"Those are Conservative principles and values and essentially what I made a mistake on was, at the time, the Labour Party was holding itself out to be the party of social justice.

"I looked into it in a bit more detail – and you can't always do that unless you get inside.

"I quickly became disillusioned, felt they talked the talk, but didn't walk the walk. It just didn't feel right."

And so she turned her back on politics until that speech by Mr Cameron, when he became leader, which made her "ears prick up".

But clinching victory in 2010 was only the beginning of some very tough tests.

In November 2012, after the celebration of receiving a ministerial appointment, she was lambasted for claiming the maximum expenses for a second home in London, despite having a £1.8 million house in Kingswood, near Reigate, just 19 miles from Parliament.

Under House of Commons rules, Maidstone is outside the commuter belt meaning she can claim expenses for rent on a London flat.

Reigate, on the other hand, was not.

With a populace – and media – ultra sensitive about MPs' expenses, she was dragged into the row.

Even now, talking about what was perceived as an expenses scandal, she visibly bristles and her demeanour changes quite dramatically.

But with taxpayers having to tighten their belts in these austere times – and unlikely to be able to afford a £1.8m home – few are likely to sympathise and will question why she couldn't simply travel the 19 miles from Reigate.

Legally, she stresses, and according to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (Ipsa), she had done no wrong.

"I acted in accordance with the letter of the law and the spirit of the law," she explained. "I've been a lawyer for 23 years, I don't want to do anything wrong, and I wouldn't.

"The situation was that when I

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Games has delivered legacy but women in sport are still lacking

AS important as the winning of medals at the London 2012 Games, was the legacy it would leave behind.

It was a word that became synonymous with the spectacle; hopes were it would spark a passion for sport and with it a surge in the number of people taking up physical activity and competitive games.

But a little over one year on and questions have been raised as to whether that dream of a legacy is being realised.

A parliamentary report by the House of Lords select committee on Olympic and Paralympic legacy, published last month, said while the Games were an "outstanding success" the legacy benefits were "in danger of faltering".

The report found little evidence of increased participation in sport and stated there was a "lack of clear ownership of legacy as a whole".

But sports minister Helen Grant said she believed the legacy was in fact living up to what is expected.

"Generally, in terms of legacy, participation, of course, is one of the big elements and if you look at the data and stats more people, women and men, are participating in sport far more than they did before we bid for the 2012 Olympic Games – I think the uptake has been noticeable," she said.

"I think there are issues in terms of women in sport. Fewer women participate.

"One of my priorities is to reduce that differential by 2022, which will be 10 years since the London Games, to get more women doing sport and there are a number of things that are happening in relation to that.

"Sport England is investing a lot of money into it, we've also got the school sports premium and school games programme which aim to encourage girls and boys to participate in sport at school and hopefully if they do that at school, they will keep doing sport in life."

Sport England is investing millions of pounds into a new pilot based in Bury aimed at increasing the number of women taking part in sport and physical activity.

Over the next 12 months, a range of activities taking into account some of the issues women face, including social motivations, peer pressure and body image, will be made available at parks and leisure centres.

"They are looking at 'what are the elements that stop women from doing sport?' and looking at how to deal with those barriers and hurdles," said Mrs Grant.

"They are literally listening to what women want and giving it to them, whether it's a zumba class or a game of rounders after they've taken their children to school.

"There's also satellite community sports clubs that have been set up, there's 100 that are girls only, and again the aim is to bridge the link between kids doing sport at school and then the drop-off that happens when they leave school and go into the community. So it's bridging that gap.

"So there's a lot that's happening in terms of participation and it's going in the right direction and we want to keep that momentum going."

She vowed that, with her sporting background, she has the experience and credibility to be a good champion for sport.

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became MP we still had a house in Kingswood. The market had been absolutely dreadful and I hadn't been able to sell it.

"But I was selected to represent the Maidstone seat so my family started to move to Kent, with the result that my mother sold her house in Kingswood which was next to me.

"We moved my son to Kent, he was at Maidstone Grammar School – the only thing I had stopping me leaving was a house and you can't just up and leave it. I also couldn't let the house out because of the mortgage terms.

"Therefore, I was commuting either from Kent, where I was staying with my Mum, or from Kingswood where I stayed in the existing house, but it varied depending on what was going on.

"I'm allowed, because I'm a Kent MP with my mother and my son in the constituency, to have a home in London.

"I told Ipsa of the situation. They were well aware of the fact I still owned a house in Kingswood which could have been sold at any point and they said you're absolutely allowed to take a place in London, so therefore I was living mainly in the place in London, having to check the house in Kingswood – obviously because I couldn't desert it – and then the rest is history; you heard what they said in the media.

"I can't even remember the logic of their argument, but all I know is that I checked it was allowed.

"I have not been reprimanded by anybody – I have a letter from Ipsa saying I have acted correctly.

"I no longer have the property in London because of all the fuss. I now have rented a property in the constituency, I have a place in Marden, and that's the end of the story."

Mrs Grant is evidently still a little bruised from her experience.

"It bothers me that it keeps coming up because of the injustice of it," she said.

"I don't like injustice and how it was presented in the press, that hurt, because I checked everything.

"Most MPs who aren't London MPs live in London Monday to Thursday.



"Not every MP is able to go home every night; most don't, most are here. That is the norm.

"At the weekend, unless I have to do something up here in London, or I'm away, we have this lovely cottage in Marden and I stay there.

"When I'm not there I stay at my mum's in Sutton Valence, so I have got a home, but as a minister I do have to often be up here as well and elsewhere, that's the reality of it."

It's a touchy subject, but when we move onto her new role as sports and tourism minister, her warm demeanour returns.

She admits, laughing, that she almost kissed the Prime Minister when he announced her as sports minister, taking over from Faversham and Mid-Kent MP, Hugh Robertson, who was promoted to minister of state in the foreign and commonwealth office

"I just couldn't believe it and I really do feel that I've got the best job in government," she says.

"At school I was a sporting nut I suppose, it was my thing. I knew from a very early age – probably five or six – that I was good at it.

"I was a very fast runner and I used to win all my school sports races. That was very good for me as it gave me my self-confidence and self-esteem.

"Early on, to be perfectly honest, I wasn't particularly academic.

"I loved sport, I preferred to go out and run around on a hockey pitch or running track rather than sitting down and reading, but I think it was one of the things that sport did for me.

"I enjoyed the discipline of learning and practice. That confidence which came from sport effectively spilled over into my academic subjects."

The idea of law came to her in her teens.

"I don't like injustice at all and it just seemed something I felt I might be able to contribute to.

"So I decided then that I might want to be a lawyer, pursued that course, did well at my A-levels and went onto university."

After the University of Hull she went on to Guildford law school.

Completing her training back in Carlisle, she joined a law firm in Covent Garden specialising in medical negligence.

"I enjoyed it, I learned how to litigate well, but found it very narrow because you're really just representing doctors and dentists.

"When law really came alive for me was when I joined a small general practice in Wimbledon and I was doing everything – conveyancing work, matrimonial work, divorces, family – and that's when I first because very interested in domestic violence, which is something very close to my heart."

> **"I enjoyed the discipline of learning and practice. That confidence which came from sport spilled over into my academic subjects"**
>
> **Helen Grant,** on the influence of sport on her early life

Growing up with a strong-minded mother, who reached out to help others, was something which formed the basis of this passion.

"My mother set up the first women's refuge in Carlisle with some other women and I remember being about 10 and going to the refuge with her.

"I'd sit at a big old brown table pretending to be getting on with my homework and I'd see her surrounded by women and children who had been beaten up. They often had black eyes, no self-esteem, no confidence, nowhere to go, and I would see what she and others were able to do and that obviously had an effect.

"So when I got stuck into family law, domestic violence and looking after women and children was something I really enjoyed doing, and it remains a deep interest, a passion for me even now.

"I think the skills you pick up as a lawyer are very transferable.

"As an MP you have to be able to prioritise, communicate, campaign, and you have to do the same as a lawyer so I've found that very useful indeed and continue to."

But what of her constituents? Do they have faith in her to fight their battles? Or as a minister are her hands now tied by the party whip?

"I will continue to work very hard and do the best for my constituents," she said.

"It's up to the electorate what they would like to do. Hopefully, they will vote for me in 2015, but I intend to just work hard and continue to help people campaign well and we'll see what happens."

At the centre of her busy life, however, is her family.

She admits she wouldn't have been able to achieve what she has without the backing of a very supportive family – including her son Ben, a Royal Marine Commander, and other son Joel, a student at the University of Kent in Canterbury.

"I couldn't have done it without them. I have a fantastic mother still and a fantastic husband and sons."

UKIP THREAT NO LAUGHING MATTER

IN recent decades the fight for power has remained primarily between the three main political parties: Labour, the Conservatives and the Lib Dems.

The Tories, however, have retained their hold over the county. It currently represents all parliamentary seats in Kent and the majority of the district and borough councils.

But a new contender is emerging in the form of right-wing party Ukip.

Led by Nigel Farage, from Westerham, the party has done more than ruffle a few feathers in the Tory camp.

Taking 17 seats in the Kent County Council elections in May, the party became opposition on the Conservative-led council, with a few of its members former Tory activists.

And with disillusioned Conservative voters switching to Ukip, there's no denying they are a threat in the 2015 General Election.

Helen Grant admits her party can't be complacent to Ukip's rise in popularity.



''I don't think they can be ignored and I think we've got to work hard indeed to bring back some Conservative supporters that have gone to Ukip,'' she said.

''We mustn't be complacent about the matter, but a vote for Ukip in many ways is a vote for Labour and at the end of the day do the people of Kent want Ed Miliband and Ed Balls in or do they want George Osborne and David Cameron?

''Because that's how it is.

''It's a bit different, granted, at council level, but that's what will happen at the end of the day and I like to think that we want David Cameron and George Osborne to continue to lead and drive our country and continue with the good work in terms of deficit reduction and getting our country back on it's feet again that we've started.

''But no, there's certainly no complacency and there is work to be done.''

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH HISLOP

FROM being grilled by Have I Got News For You panellist and Private Eye editor Ian Hislop (who lives in nearby Sissinghurst), to coming under the fierce glare of the electorate, Helen Grant said fighting to become a candidate to stand in the 2010 election was a hard enough task in itself.

And despite her brief dalliance with Labour, she knew the Conservative Party was the one she wanted to represent.

''I joined the Conservative Party, I liked it – I thought 'I'm home', the principles and values fit – so I decided to become a candidate and stand which I never did for Labour,'' she said.

''There's a big difference there; the big decision is committing your life and saying I am going to be a Member of Parliament for that party.

''And so I did, I wanted to do it.

''I applied for seats in Sutton and Cheam, and Hammersmith was another. Third time lucky, I applied for Maidstone and I won.''



But it was no easy task, she said.

''You get to know the seat, you learn about the issues and then you go through a rigorous selection process where they want to see how you relate to people.

''You have make a speech, answer a lot of questions, do a session on the doorstep, canvassing, so they can see how you relate to the community.

''I had to meet with community groups and the big event – the final – I had to do an interview with Ian Hislop.

''He grilled me in front of all the members and then I had to give another speech, and another speech, then more questions. It was a long process over about three weeks.''

But was it worth it?

''Definitely,'' she says, ''I was delighted – over the moon.''

After being selected, she went on to take 48 per cent of the vote in the 2010 General Election and a place in Westminster, tipped as a political star of the future.

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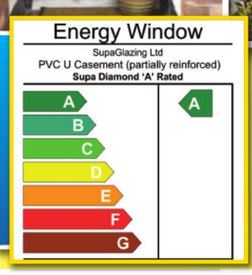
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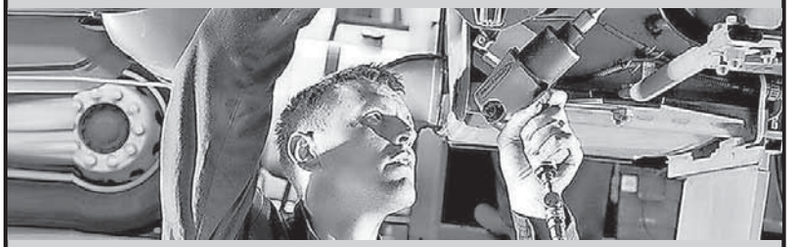
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In focus

A contentious paper published by KCC on homelessness brought on by the Coalition's cuts to benefits has been withdrawn by county council leader Paul Carter… but why, asks **Marijke Cox**?



A RED-FACED Paul Carter was this week facing fierce scrutiny after pulling a controversial report which was poised to reveal the worrying impact of the Government-led welfare reforms on the county.

In an embarrassing move, the Kent County Council leader withdrew the paper – due to be discussed on Friday by the policy and resources cabinet committee at County Hall – claiming it had been published in his name, but without his knowledge.

Had his intention been to keep the report the quiet, his actions did the exact opposite, fuelling the flames of speculation and propelling the document – and its contents – into the headlines.

The paper linked a rise in homelessness, families being moved into bed and breakfast, and an increase in people using foodbanks, with the Coalition's contentious welfare reforms.

It also highlighted a problem with council tenants falling into rent arrears as a result of the changes.

Political rivals hinted that KCC – in particular Cllr Carter – did not want to be seen to be disagreeing with the Government's benefit changes, or with senior figures in the Conservative Party, and so withdrew the report from the meeting, which is held in public.

Cllr Carter came out fighting, however, stating it had been published without his knowledge – but in his name – and so wanted to look at it in more detail before it was discussed.

"We have withdrawn the paper because, in my view, it is drawing conclusions that are not properly evidenced," he said.

"We will continue to monitor very closely the impact of benefit changes in Kent."

A spokesman at the council stressed it was an important subject to Cllr Carter and he wanted to ensure the report was accurate.

Others, however, were less than convinced.

Leader of the Lib Dems on KCC, Trudy Dean, said it was likely due to pressure from the top.

She told KoS: "It's not unusual to withdraw a report if there are changes, but I've never known a situation where a member has put their name on a report and then said, 'well, I don't agree with what it says', and pulled it.

"There are two likely reasons. One, that he didn't read it, or two, more pressure was put on him to withdraw the report and I suspect it would have come from Westminster."

On Monday, Cllr Carter appeared on BBC Radio Kent appealing for cash from the Government to help cope with the expected arrival of Romanian and Bulgarian migrants in the county once labour restrictions are lifted in January 2014.

He warned of the pressures – and subsequent cost – it would have on the county's housing, health service and education.

"He was saying he wanted more money for Kent, and so what might have happened was someone at Westminster said if you want more money then withdraw the report," said Cllr Dean.

But she admitted she was surprised it was pulled, stating the document was written in "cautious terms".

"It was written under the name of David Cockburn who is the head of the council's think-tank and I'd be surprised if anything that came out of them wasn't reliable," she said.

"Data shows that about one in three council tenants have now fallen into rent arrears, homelessness is up by 25 per cent in the last 12 months, and there's an increase of 22 per cent in families being located in B&Bs, which is a last resort, as we don't want to put families in them.

"The report goes on to reflect on the impacts, but says it is too soon to draw conclusions from the evidence. It's very tentative and the report is couched in cautious terms.

"I don't think it reflected anything misleading. It says it's too soon to tell. There was nothing inflammatory and so I'm surprised it was withdrawn.

"Paul Carter has shot himself in the foot because this has only gone to highlight the report whereas it may have just passed by quietly otherwise."

Labour KCC councillor for Deal and the former opposition leader, Mike Eddy, said it raised the question of why the report was being kept secret.

"Everybody will now just want to find out what was in that report. This has just made it worse and it's an embarrassment for Paul Carter," he said.

"I would suspect that it's not the style of KCC to allow anything to go out which does not put the best light on what the council and the Tories are doing.



QUESTION TIME: KCC leader Paul Carter

Did Whitehall order Carter's U-turn over welfare report?



"On that basis, they have gone into panic mode. Something has gone out which is critical of them [the Tories]. Usually there's some good spin, but this report clearly didn't have it."

Cllr Eddy said he had heard concerns by south east council leaders – including many Conservatives – that the country was heading for a fall off a "fiscal cliff" by 2016.

"They're worried there will be no money to deliver services with the spending plans as they are," he said.

He stressed the cuts were having an impact on people living in Kent.

Pointing out problems with the controversial bedroom tax – where families deemed to have too much living space have their housing benefit reduced – he said the most vulnerable were suffering.

Cllr Eddy said: "The bedroom tax is just one example of the problems. People who are in council accommodation supported by housing benefits and the property is too big for them are having their benefits reduced.

"But they have to stay there because there isn't capacity. They are cutting down on expenditure in order to stay in the property which they are currently in.

"When a house does come up with a bedroom less they can't afford to move.

"If they are elderly or have disabilities they can't just go out and find a van to use. And even paying a mate £50 is more money going out.

"That's just one example where these cuts are coming in. It's a desperate situation.

"I think this report just basically illustrates the stupidity of the Tory administration. They are not thinking about the people of Kent."

Lib Dem's Trudy Dean said her party believes the welfare changes are right, that too many

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people who could work are instead living on benefits.

But she criticised the roll-out of the reforms.

"It's happening too fast, it should have been phased in slowly."

She explained: "Three or four changes are happening all at the same time.

"Some people are losing benefits and some people are going through the assessment process to see if they qualify, so that happens for people with disabilities.

"So many people are being reassessed there is a long delay and in the meantime are being pushed into debt because their benefits have been stopped.

"Another thing, under the previous system of benefits, rent for claimants was given direct to the landlord, but that has changed now and it will go direct to the individual.

"The arrangement is so people basically have to grow-up and learn how to take control of their own finances. That's fine for many people, two out of three can handle that, but the other third is not used to managing their own finances.

"They are used to it being paid to their landlord and so they have fallen into arrears. If they are illiterate and can't handle numbers it's difficult for them. There's a real problem of people not being able to manage their affairs. They don't have the skills to know how to do it.

"Some of those people may have bunked off school, but there are others who have special needs or who missed school for other reasons."

She stressed many application forms for benefits now have to be done online which, for a high proportion of claimants who have trouble reading or writing, causes a problem and puts pressure on the services which have to help, such as the Gateway centres.

"All these welfare changes are being tackled at the same time and so may be driving larger numbers of people into debt," she said.

"They're trying to achieve it much too fast. It's complicated.

"The changes should have been brought in on a phased basis, tackle one thing at a time.

"We need to protect those people who are the most vulnerable and that is not being achieved – they need support and assistance."

Despite the reforms being brought in, she accused the Tories at Whitehall of pushing it through quickly in a bid to balance the books.

Mike Barrett, chief executive of Kent-based homelessness charity Porchlight, said he welcomed the original KCC report.

"It provided information that would finally allow us to have an open and honest debate about the impact of welfare reforms on some of the most vulnerable people in the county," he said.

"As a result of government cuts many of the services that exist to help people suffering because of welfare reforms are themselves under threat.

"Back when the reforms were announced in 2010, we agreed with the Government that something needed to be done about benefit dependency, but we said their plans would happen too quickly and cut too deeply.

"And they have. We have seen an increase in homelessness year on year for the last three years.

"Having the evidence out in the public domain means we can have a serious discussion about investment in affordable housing, find a way to tackle the issue of private landlords who are reluctant to take people on benefits and develop a much-needed anti-poverty strategy to help working people on low incomes who are relying on food banks."

Cllr Dean stressed the report would be coming back for discussion in the future.

"It has to come back – I suspect more how Paul Carter wants it," she said.

"The report was asked for by the policy and resources committee. It will be reported every six months and so this was drawing a baseline – what's happening now – but in six months we'll be able to tell how much it's changed. We'll have a better idea."

• What do you think? Share your views. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or email us at editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

'Poverty crisis' hitting county town

MAIDSTONE Green Party has called for urgent action to address what it says is rapidly rising poverty and homelessness in the borough.

The party said recent statistics for the area showed 637 local households have lost an average of £900 a year as a result of the bedroom tax, homelessness has risen eightfold locally, there has been a threefold rise in the use of food banks nationally and use has doubled in Kent in the past 12 months.

In a bid to raise awareness of the issue and money for the winter shelter run by local churches, members slept rough on Thursday night.

Stuart Jeffery, parliamentary hopeful for Maidstone and the Weald said: ''There is a real poverty crisis in Maidstone the council is failing to address.

''While we understand all local authorities are facing difficulties due to coalition cuts, the council should be focusing all its efforts on protecting the most vulnerable.

''Sadly, it is clearly failing. We are therefore calling on it to take urgent action to address the unfolding crisis in the borough.''



OUT IN OPEN: Mike Barrett, of homelessness charity Porchlight, said he welcomed original KCC report



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Suffocating horror of a brutal scar on humanity

Joe Bill joins Kent schoolchildren on a moving trip to Auschwitz, the notorious Second World War concentration camp in Poland which became the setting for the most appalling crimes. **Warning:** Some graphic descriptions

STANDING in the freezing mud surrounded by barbed wire and lookout towers, the rows of wooden huts stretch out as far as the eye can see before eventually disappearing into the mist.

The modest luxury of hats, scarves and gloves staves off the chill as a fog descends onto the Polish marshland.

There is an almost deafening silence; broken only by boot steps across unmade gravel paths.

We are stood on a site which bore witness to some of the most horrific crimes against humanity the world has ever endured.

Auschwitz – the most notorious of all the concentration and death camps used by the Nazis.

Its very name conjures up the terror and depravity of the Holocaust.

Today it stands as a lasting monument to the more than 1.1 million people who lost their lives here.

To say the emotional impact of being here is powerful is an understatement. It is like a rushing train which thuds into your very soul.

To allow your mind to focus on the extraordinary scenes which took place here between 1940 and 1945 is almost too much to bear.

But it is essential we never forget; never allow this to happen again.

That we do not forget the row upon row of, predominantly Jewish, people ripped from their homes and families by Adolf Hitler's desire to eradicate a race he blamed for much of Germany's woes.

They would arrive here at Auschwitz Birkenau – the second of three buildings which comprise this horrendous place and the central extermination centre – dressed in just a single layer.

If they survived the freezing temperatures and staved off starvation, they would almost certainly die here in the gas chambers – what Hitler dubbed "the final solution to the Jewish problem".

I've joined a 200-strong group of 16 to 18-year-old students from schools across Kent. They are here as part of the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz project.

Established in 1988, it aims to educate the next generation about the Holocaust and the lessons which must be learned.

This is one of a number of trips they operate.

Unlike most school trips, there is no excitable laughter or chatter.

This is a place which seems to seep into your heart and sit heavy with its murderous past.

The main death camp itself is approached by train tracks.

"The Nazi train tracks were continued right into the camp just to speed up the process," says our guide.

This place was born out of the desire to end lives – a factory of death and despair.

The original Auschwitz death camp was created in Oswiecim, a town rich in history and located in the south-west corner of Poland.

Sat a little over 30 miles west of Krakow, it was deemed to be on the outer edge of Nazi control and the ideal place to send political prisoners, Soviet and Polish troops as well as what the Third Reich perceived as the enemies in its pursuit to create a 'master race'; Jews, gypsies and homosexuals.

The camp is split into three parts: Auschwitz I, a converted army barracks which was the first place to start housing prisoners; Auschwitz III, a manufacturing plant in which prisoners were forced to work to contribute to the Nazi war effort; and Auschwitz-Birkenau, a monstrous construction designed with one thought in mind – the extermination of the Jews.

Driving through the town of Oswiecim is itself a slightly unsettling experience.

There are plenty of houses, but there doesn't seem to be many people.

It is overcast and cold, almost as if the dark shadow of Auschwitz is permanently upon it.

Pre-war, the town was home to 12,000 people, 58 per cent of which were Jewish. It is reported that after the war only one Jewish resident returned.

In total, it is estimated 1.1 million

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DEATH CAMP: World Heritage site Auschwitz, its famous gates boasting the epitaph 'Arbeit macht frei' (Work Makes You Free), is a poignant reminder of those poor souls who perished there, one of the darkest periods in man's history

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Jews were murdered at Auschwitz across its three camps as well as 140,000 Polish residents and rebels, 23,000 Sinti and Roma gypsies, and 15,000 Soviet prisoners of war.

The statistics are also considered merely an estimate. Some men, women and children were sent directly to the gas chambers with no documentation or identification recorded – in order to just speed up the sickening extermination programme.

Auschwitz I is a regimented square of red brick buildings surrounded by barbed wire and high, inescapable electric fences. The familiar Nazi camp slogan 'Arbeit Macht Frei' (Work Makes You Free) is emblazoned across the entrance gates.

It is as if the place is frozen in time.

The eerie silence is broken by gasps and tears as visitors enter the museum for a tour of what was left behind.

The sheer scale of what happened here is brought home instantly.

A simple glass box, the length of a large room, is full of hair: human hair. Piles and piles of it. Shaved off of those entering the camp. It is heaped five-feet-high along the wall.

The victim's hair was used by the Nazis to make rugs, carpets and even clothes which were taken back to Germany and sold to raise funds for the flagging Nazi war effort.

The sheer amount turns the stomach. It weighs approximately 1,950kgs. And this is just what was left behind when the Russian Red Army liberated Auschwitz in 1945.

It is the first clear sign of the dehumanisation employed by the Nazis.

They not only killed these people, but they stripped them of any dignity they had left en route.

There remain piles of shoes, glasses, prosthetic limbs and even the pots and pans of the Jews who brought their lives to Auschwitz on the back of a Nazi promise of starting a new life in Eastern Europe.

One exhibit was nauseating to witness; a heap of children's shoes, babies shoes, that could fit on your finger. Joined by toys, blankets and bibs.

Young and old alike, men, women and children; all were shown no mercy.

History teacher Tanith Surgenor, from the Marsh Academy in New Romney, found the ordeal almost too much to face.

She said: "It's been so hard to wrap my mind around it all. It is overwhelming, and I feel angry and upset.

"The students will take away a lesson in humanity, looking at how normal people can become inhuman and treat others so evil.

"Seeing the baby clothes set me off. I have been teaching about it for so

> **"It is completely horrific. I know I won't ever forget this and it is something everybody needs to see. It needs to be remembered so it never happens again"**

Daniel Juniper, history student at the Abbey School in Faversham

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long and hearing all of the stories, but actually being here and seeing it has brought it all home."

Outside, and close to the main 'death block', our guide points out the shooting wall where thousands were stripped, led out and shot at close range in the back of the head by a designated executioner.

Other prisoners were then forced to clear away the corpses.

The guide explained the details of the horrendous punishments the worker prisoners were put through if they disobeyed orders.

Standing cells, one yard by one yard, would hold four men all night as a punishment with literally no room to sit down.

"Only the mentally and physically tough could survive," the guide said.

Escape attempts, of which there were 800, with just 140 successes, meant the remaining prison populous was collectively punished to discourage further efforts.

SS officers would pick out 10 prisoners at random and starve them to death as punishment for one of their comrades attempting to escape.

Public hangings were commonplace. Most who entered left hope behind. All they craved was a quick death.

Moving through the first Auschwitz compound we finally arrive at the heart of the killing operation.

The original gas chamber was situated just yards from where SS Commandant Rudolph Höss, who was in charge of the camp, lived with his wife and five children to personally oversee the extermination of the incoming prisoners.

A solitary wooden gallows still stands next to the chamber where Höss was hanged after the British Army caught him and tried him in a Polish court for his crimes against humanity.

Nothing, however, can prepare you for the emptiness and repulsion of the gas chambers themselves.

Piled high are the empty tins of the cyanide-based Zyklon B chemicals, used to extinguish so many lives.

In silence, the visiting students shuffle through the dark doorway into a simple concrete room disguised under a bank of grass with only a chimney exposed.

Terrified victims arriving into the camp after days and weeks on packed trains were told they needed to be showered and de-liced before they could enter camp life – a lie that made many step through the doorway.

When crammed into this terrible tomb, a shaft at the top of the grass bank would be opened and a tin of Zyklon B dropped into the room.

The concrete chamber could be filled with up to 1,500 people at any one time and it was the body heat generated by the prisoners which caused the chemical reaction in the cyanide and the gas to be released.

According to Höss, it only took around 10 minutes for everyone in the room to be dead.

Anyone who was still alive when the doors were unlocked was shot.

Bodies were collected and instantly pushed into the furnaces next door.

Up to 5,000 people could be killed every single day.

Höss notoriously bragged they could have killed many more, but it was the burning of the bodies in the furnaces that took up all the time.

Prisoners were forced to sift through the ashes of the bodies in search for gold teeth or jewellery that may have been hidden or swallowed by victims.

The silence that was demanded as the students moved in and out of these deathly quarters was observed impeccably.

Daniel Juniper is studying history at the Abbey School in Faversham.

He said: "It is completely horrific.

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« PAGE 21

"Being here makes you able to visualise it. I know I won't ever forget this, and it really is something everybody needs to see. It needs to be remembered so it never happens again."

The tour takes us from Auschwitz I along a short trek to Auschwitz-Birkenau. It is here the size and scale of the appalling operation is brought into perspective.

In 1942, a directive from Hitler's right-hand man, Heinrich Himmler, saw the construction of the Birkenau death camp to increase capacity for slave workers, but also to speed up the process of killing the Jews.

Three more gas chambers were constructed as well as crematoria to destroy the bodies at a quicker rate.

The towering guard house at the entrance to Birkenau stands watching over a massive site and its gated tunnel still has the train tracks running through to the heart of the death camp.

It was here the cattle trucks carting Jews from across Europe would stop and the human contents analysed by SS officers.

Healthy men, strong women and boys aged over 14 were deemed worthy of becoming slave workers while weak, the ill, most women and children were sent instantly to their deaths.

Josef Perl was born in Czechoslovakia in 1930 and was shipped to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

He survived the camp and told us of his sickening arrival.

"The doors of our wagons unlocked. Our section of the train had not stopped at a platform so we had to jump down.

"As always, everything had to be done in double-quick time. There was screaming and shouting, guards were lashing out and beating anyone who could not get out of the way.

"Dogs on the end of short leads were barking and jumping up at new arrivals, viciously biting many of them.

"I saw old people, ill people, people so weak they were almost dead, come tumbling out of the wagons when the doors were opened.

"Then I saw a baby being born as its mother was pushed out onto the ground.

"An SS guard grabbed the baby, cut the cord and threw it unceremoniously to one side like rubbish.

"He pushed the distraught mother to where the smartly dressed commandant was deciding who was to live and who was to die.

"Waving his riding crop, he indicated 'links oder rechts' (left or right) with a flick of his wrist in the most casual, almost bored way.

"Those who he sent to the left went immediately to the gas chambers, those to the right had been selected, whether to work or for experimentation. It was Dr Mengele."

Dr Mengele was an infamous SS officer who conducted hideous experiments on the prisoners of Auschwitz including refining a method to sterilise Jewish females.

Those who did survive the immediate cull at the train tracks did not fair much better.

The freezing temperatures, diseases and infighting between prisoners for food meant the life expectancy for a man in the camp was just six months; for a woman just three.

The student group that began to mass in the Birkenau mud heard harrowing stories of confused families lying to Nazis in a vain attempt to keep their families together, not knowing the inevitable fate that awaited them.

"And I did not know in that place, at that moment, I was parting from my mother forever. I went on walking. My father held onto my hand."

Elie Wiesel, Auschwitz survivor recounts first moments at camp



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One woman, who had five children aged two, four, seven, 11 and 15, wanted desperately to remain as a unit and lied to guards telling them that her eldest son was in fact 14, ultimately condemning him to the same horrors as the rest.

Elie Wiesel was born in Romania and was deported to Auschwitz. He remembers his arrival at the camp.

He said: "Every two yards or so an SS man held his tommy gun trained on us. Hand in hand we followed the crowd. An SS officer came to meet us, a truncheon in his hand. 'Men to the left, women to the right'.

"Eight words spoken quietly, indifferently, without emotion. Eight short simple words. Yet the moment I parted from my mother I had not had time to think, but already I felt the pressure of my father's hand; we were alone.

"For a part second I glimpsed my mother and my sisters moving away to the right... I saw them disappear into the distance; my mother was stroking my sister's fair hair as though to protect her, while I walked on with my father and other men.

"And I did not know in that place, at that moment, I was parting from my mother forever. I went on walking. My father held onto my hand."

As darkness fell at 3pm on the day, we continued around the giant site witnessing the ruins of the gas chambers. They were dynamited by the Nazis just days before the liberation of Auschwitz in an attempt to cover their tracks.

"Never before in history had humans been killed in such a way," said our guide as we passed a large dip in the ground identified as a now covered body pit.

Our final moments in Auschwitz held two more extremely poignant instances.

Some 44,000 pictures were recovered from the people who lived and died at Auschwitz and they are displayed on the walls of the building.

They depict the lives, the families, and friends of those who suffered and died at the hands of the Nazis.

The physical evidence revealing the real lives of the people who suffered at this place is simply excruciating. Their lives, their loves, their families, laid out before you. Their hopes, dreams and aspirations so brutally destroyed.

Head of history at the Abbey School in Faversham is Gareth Storey.

He said: "It's a very moving place. Just the sheer scale of it. Being here shows you a different point of view and the horror of it all. It's so important the students have come here today.

"Obviously they can study it at school, but by actually seeing it for themselves, like any trip to a historical site, really makes it far more real, and I think it will be something that stays with them for the rest of their lives."

In the near pitch-black, stood around the train tracks of Birkenau, students, teachers and tour guides gathered for a ceremony to discuss the feelings the day had stirred up.

A thought-provoking speech from Rabbi Barry Marcus, of the Central Synagogue of London, reminded everyone of the pain and suffering many Jewish families still feel because of the Holocaust.

It was also very apparent the fight to stop racial prejudice and anti-Semitism was far from over.

A pre-war Jewish cemetery – destroyed by the Nazis and then rebuilt – in Oswiecim has recently been attacked and desecrated by fascist neo-Nazis, forcing the gates to be locked at all times.

Auschwitz remains a World Heritage Site and is a permanent reminder that the fight is not over.

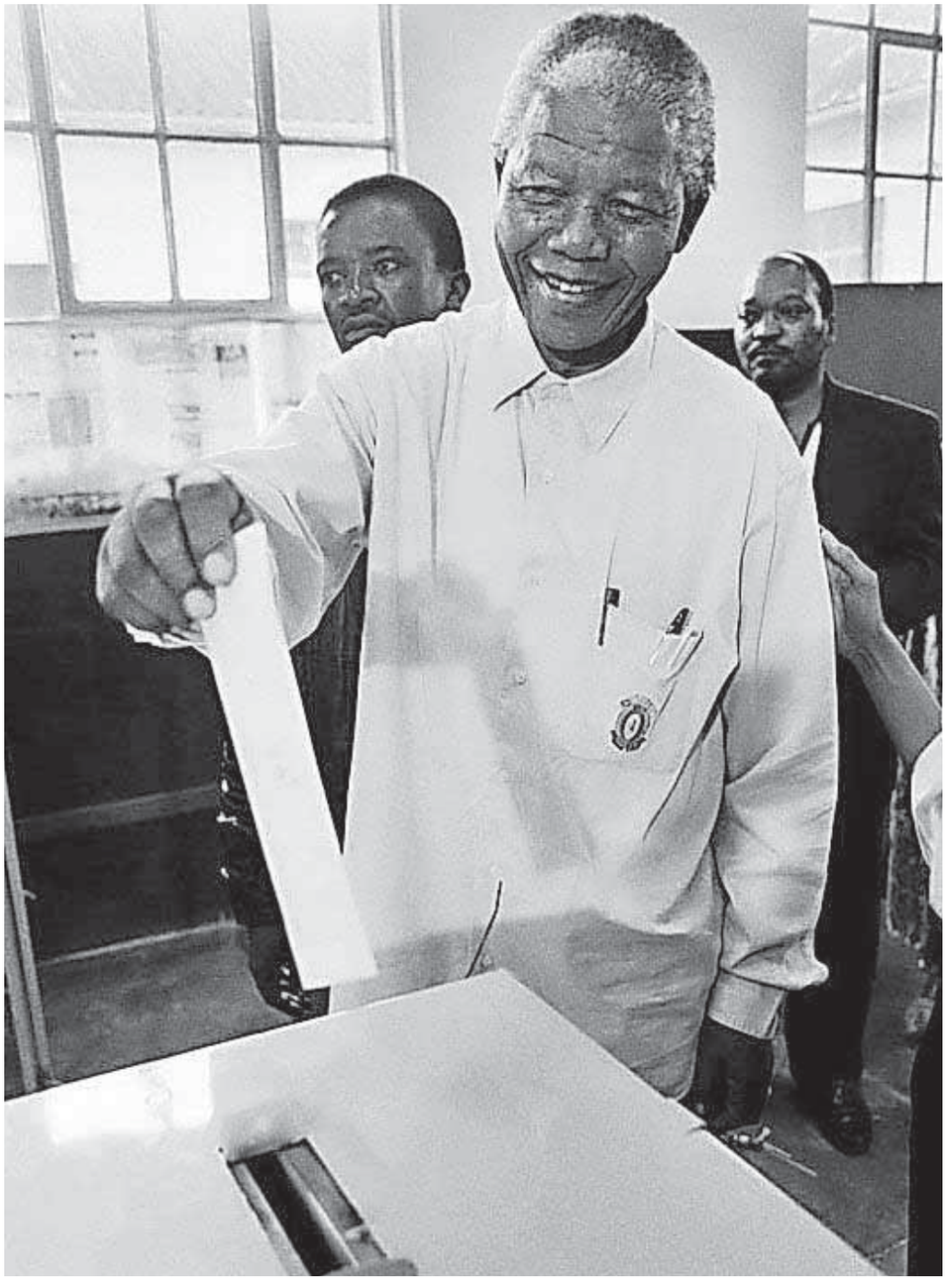
Chief executive of the Holocaust Educational Trust, Karen Pollock MBE, said: "This visit enables young people to see for themselves where racism, prejudice and anti-Semitism can ultimately lead, and its importance is demonstrated by the inspiring work that students go on to do in their local communities."

There is no doubt this is a harrow-



Thursday saw the world mourn the passing of Nelson Mandela, a man whose fight against apartheid cost him his freedom and 27 years in captivity. But he would go on to become a global beacon for hope and forgiveness. **Chris Murphy** talks to some of those who were inspired by the great man's deeds

'It is now left to us to act on his legacy'



HISTORY IN THE MAKING: Nelson Mandela makes his historic vote in South Africa's elections of 1994, four years after he had been released from prison, a process North Thanet MP Roger Gale was there to see first-hand

AS A UNITED South Africa went to the polls for the first time in 1994, one of our senior MPs jetted in to assume the roll of independent observer.

For Thanet North's Sir Roger Gale it presented a chance to play a small role in one of the world's most historic moments.

With apartheid torpedoed, Nelson Mandela's remarkable journey was on the verge of being crowned.

After 27 years of incarceration, he was now on the verge of becoming South Africa's first black president.

For Sir Roger, his role was to ensure the voting system was fair during the three days people had to cast their vote.

It was a time he will never forget.

The Conservative politician told KoS: "People were queuing for hours and hours just to vote. It was incredibly moving and good-humoured."

A year later and Sir Roger returned – this time to visit the cell in the notorious Robben Island prison where Mandela had spent 18 years behind bars.

He said: "He had almost formed a government in prison. Mandela had arranged for books to be brought in to educate the prisoners; deciding how they were going to run the country when they got out.

"He was an absolutely extraordinary, charismatic man and incredibly brave. And yes, bottom line I suppose, he was a die-hard young terrorist, but then so were a lot of people in Africa in those days.

"I have a colossal admiration for him as a human being, as a politician and a leader. He was head and shoulders above any one else in Africa."

Adam Holloway is MP for Gravesham. The Tory was working in South Africa when the ruling white power in South Africa announced apartheid would end.

He explained: "I was working in a school in the black township of Soweto when the president of the apartheid regime made his speech where he said 'We are crossing the river. Going there can be no turning back'.

"In other words, he was taking the country to black majority rule.

"What was interesting was the imprisoned Nelson Mandela out on Robben Island was unquestionably going to lead that majority government, even though he was still a prisoner.

"One of my friends remembers visiting Mandela in the prison.

"They told me that it was extraordinary. Mandela had been in prison for decades, and yet the prison governor – a brigadier I think – treated him with the greatest diffidence, as if he knew that Mandela was the rightful president of South Africa.

"His death is a loss to that country, and to the world."

Swale MP Gordon Henderson added: "He was more than a statesman; he was an inspiration for those who oppose inequality based on race, religion, gender or sexuality.

"He was the glue that has bonded together the various races that make up the Rainbow Nation.

"I hope his legacy lasts and South Africa continues to embrace non-racial politics and does not end up like Zimbabwe."

Simon Mason, an A-level lecturer in politics at MidKent College, told us: "Inspirational. Triumph over adversity. Influential. Courageous. There are many adjectives that can describe such a man as Nelson Mandela, undoubtedly one of the world's most influential men of the late 20th century.

> **"And yes, bottom line I suppose he was a die-hard young terrorist, but then so were a lot of people in Africa in those days"**
>
> **Sir Roger Gale,** observer during in 1994 South African election



KMI

"Despite enduring 27 years of incarceration for 'sabotage and attempting to violently overthrow the government', Mandela became not only the international symbol of resistance to apartheid, but also the embodiment of equality.

"Retiring from public life in 2004, Mandela continued to be influential both at home and on the world stage: from campaigning tirelessly against HIV/AIDS, negotiating peace in several African nations, to helping to secure the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

"It is now left to us to act on his legacy, a legacy we would be wise to heed."

Canterbury MP Julian Brazier added: "I have South African cousins who were heavily involved in the struggle against apartheid, which helps to bring home for me the pivotal role which Nelson Mandela played in the largely peaceful transfer of power from the white minority to the people as a whole of South Africa.

"At a time when much of sub-Saharan Africa is still dominated by dictatorships or, worse still, wracked with civil war, Nelson Mandela's legacy to his nation is one of constitutional government and hope.

"Right through to his 90s, he acted as a calming influence on a country still subject to enormous pressures.

"He was a statesman."



HELL HOLE: Robben Island where Mandela was imprisoned

Fire that burned bright despite a 27-year jail term

NEWS of Nelson Mandela's death was announced to the South African people at a little before midnight on Thursday night – around 9.50pm UK time.

The nation's president Jacob Zuma reported the news in an address which broke a nation's heart.

But the shockwaves of his death would be felt around the world. Mr Mandela was a statesman like no other.

And while the news of his death would have surprised few, the impact of his passing was not lessened.

As the tributes rained in from the most senior global figures, there was a harmony in the message – Mandela was one of the most profound forces for good, and demonstrated a humility which should serve as a lesson to us all.

Born on July 18, 1918, he initially trained as a lawyer before becoming part of the African National Congress' (ANC) bid to end the oppressive apartheid regime, which saw the majority black population treated as second-class citizens – or worse.

Initially pursuing peaceful means, as his frustrations grew, he turned to take on the role of terrorist, organising strikes against the white government.

Eloquent and well travelled, he was already a recognisable face of the black movement prior to his arrest in 1962, where he was convicted of conspiracy to overthrown the government. He would be sentenced to a life behind bars.

He was sent to Robben Island, a tough prison where those inside would spend their days in a quarry breaking up rocks in hard, back-breaking work, before spending their time in tiny cells.

But Mandela did not allow the fire in his soul to die.

He had become an international symbol of the struggle in South Africa and the calls for his release came in line with a highly publicised, and highly effective, boycott of South African goods and services.

The international community turned their back on the nation's sporting team, and those who opted to perform in the country to white audiences found themselves lambasted.

Finally, in 1990, South African president FW de Klerk, realising his nation could not prosper on a global scale, began negotiations with Mandela – often smuggling him out of the jail to speak face-to-face.

He would ultimately release him, without condition, shortly after lifting a ban on the ANC.

Mandela was freed after 27 years behind bars on February 11, 1990, to global applause.

Within four years, he would become its first black president – serving just one term before voluntarily stepping aside.

As his health began to fade, so his public and political appearances declined, until earlier this year his health took a dramatic turn for the worse in June.

He passed away, surrounded by his family, at his home late on Thursday night.

He was 95.

Donating third of presidential salary showed his great concern, says Mandela charity worker

KATHI Scott is executive director of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund UK, which supported a major diversity festival, Dankfees, at the Hop Farm in Paddock Wood last year.

She told us: "Nelson Mandela made an immense impact to countless people's lives all over the world.

"He was seen as a silent guarantor of democracy, harmony and forgiveness.

"He gave people hope – no matter what the colour of your skin or your religious beliefs, age or gender, everyone deserves the same rights.

"With his actions we realised that racism should never be tolerated.

"Through the work of his charity, the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, he has left a very clear legacy to the world.

"His great concern was the most vulnerable children in society and how important it is to nurture and develop them, as the future of a country depends on them.

"In the year he became president and donated one third of his annual presidential salary to start NMCF, he sent out a very powerful message.

"Being able to carry out the charity work so close to his heart in places as far away as Kent, means so much to us.

"Arriving at the Dankfees event at the Hop Farm and seeing people old and young alike who wanted to help us realise his dreams was humbling.

"Mr Mandela taught me that with help from others you can make your mark on the world, and that personal sacrifice and dedication together are very powerful. He was a great human being, a great leader and will always be my moral compass."



Novel way of tracing our

Those of us who live and work in Kent need little reminder what a truly inspirational and often awe-inspiring county this can be. And over the years it has provided the muse for some of the world's best-loved authors; either acting as a reference point for their work or appearing within the pages. **Joe Bill** takes a look at 10 of the most high-profile examples.



1 Whitstable

Inspired: **W Somerset Maugham**

IT was far from a happy childhood for the author.

Orphaned when he was just 10 – his mother died of tuberculocis when he was eight, his father of cancer two years later – he was sent to live with his elderly aunt and uncle in Whitstable in 1884.

He would reposition the town as Blackstable (and nearby Canterbury as Tercanbury) for two of his most famous novels – Of Human Bondage and Cakes and Ale.



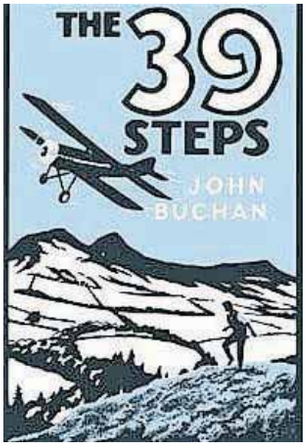
8 Halstead

Inspired: **Edith Nesbitt**

THE leafy village of Halstead, near Sevenoaks, was the playground for author Edith Nesbitt as she grew up.

Her home, the Grade II-listed Halstead Hall, was little more than a mile from the train tracks that saw steam locomotives travel to London from the countryside.

These tracks are said to have been, in part at least, the inspiration for her most popular novel The Railway Children.



2 Broadstairs

Inspired: **John Buchan**

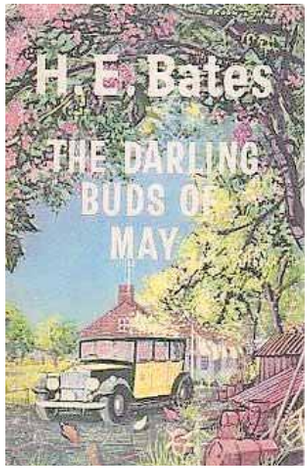
INSPIRATION strikes in the most unlikely of places.

Scottish author John Buchan was recuperating at a nursing home in Cliff Promenade, Broadstairs, suffering from a duodenal (peptic) ulcer, when he began work on his most famous novel – The 39 Steps.

The home, named St Cuby, had an inspiring view over looking the waterfront. The 39 steps referred to are belived to be based on the staircase which descended from the nursing home's garden down to the beach.

The original wooden steps were demolished and sent to Buchan, but were then replaced and remain there to this day. It has been recreated for film and TV with Alfred Hitchcock producing a popular version in 1935.





3 Pluckley and surrounding villages

Inspired: **HE Bates**

AFTER his marriage in 1931, HE Bates moved to Little Chart, near Ashford.

Legend has it he was with his family when he spied a man – thought to have been Wiltshire trader William Dell – enter a shop in Pluckley with a big wad of bank notes and proceed to spoil his trailer load of children with sweets and ice cream.

It would form the inspiration for his best-loved literary creation – the irrepressible Pop Larkin, a character who would be the central pillar of the Darling Buds of May.

Bates and his wife lived in the converted granary up until his death in January, 1974.

9 Canterbury

Inspired: **Mary Tourtel**

THE creator of children's favourite Rupert the Bear, Mary Tourtel lived and died in Canterbury and is believed to have drawn on its nearby villages as the inspiration for the little bear's fictional home, Nutwood.

Having trained at the Kent Institute of Art and Design, Mrs Tourtel was a professional book illustrator when her husband, who worked at the Daily Express newspaper, asked her to come up with a cartoon strip.

In 1920, Little Lost Bear first appeared. He would become Rupert.

Originally a brown bear, Rupert's colour was changed to white after the Express cut its inking expenses.

4 Sandgate

Inspired: **HG Wells**

THE author has a long association with the county, having been born in Bromley, but it was while he lived in Sandgate he used the coastline as inspiration for his novel the Sea Lady.

It is thought he based the character's arrival out of the sea on the view from the back garden of the five-bedroom house his family lived in – which was recently sold.

Best known for the Invisible Man and the Time Machine, the author is also said to have based scenes in The First Men in the Moon on parts of Hythe.

A little known fact about Wells is that in 1934 he helped form a charity for an illness he himself suffered from - diabetes. It would eventually become Diabetes UK.





7 Groombridge

Inspired: **Arthur Conan Doyle**

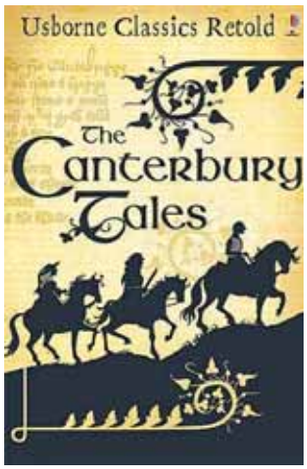
THE 350-year-old moated manor house Groombridge Place, near Tunbridge Wells, used to attract the man who invented legendary detective Sherlock Holmes – Sir Arther Conan Doyle.

The author lived in nearby Crowborough, just over the border in East Sussex, and was a regular visitor.

He based Birlstone Manor, featured in the Holmes novel The Valley of Fear, on the building.

It is said one corner of the garden is still clearly identifiable as the spot where Dr Watson overheard a conversation of great significance to the case.

Groombridge Place also features in the Conan Doyle book At the Edge of the Unknown, in which the autor describes his encounter with the famous 'ostler ghost' at the Jacobean mansion.



10 Canterbury

Inspired: **Geoffrey Chaucer**

DUBBED the father of English literature, Chaucer's 14th century masterpiece the Canterbury Tales continues to entertain young and old alike as it follows the progress of a pilgrimage from London to Kent's cathedral city.

It draws on the route through the county the travellers would have taken and continues to be keenly felt in Canterbury – most notably with the Canterbury Tales tourist exhibition.

literary greats from Kent



5 Medway
Inspired Charles Dickens

PERHAPS the finest author of all time, Dickens is synonymous with the county in which he spent some of his childhood before returning to see out his final years.

He wrote a number of his finest works in the Swiss chalet built in the grounds of his Gads Hill Place home: among them Great Expectations and a Tale of Two Cities.

The memorable landscape described in Great Expectations draws on the marshes along the River Medway, while Rochester's Restoration House was the basis for Miss Havisham's Satis House.

Eastgate House in Rochester High Street was turned into 'Westgate' for use in the Pickwick Papers, while Fort House in Broadstairs – where the author holidayed – was the basis of Bleak House, a name the building has subsequently adopted.

For most fans of his work, the chance soon to visit his former home when it becomes a visitor attraction will be too great to resist.

6 Sandwich
Inspired: Ian Fleming

GIVEN the author's love affair with the county – he had a home at St Margaret's – there are several connections with Kent in his books.

Many of the James Bond novels drew on the county's sights and sounds, with Pett Bottom, south of Canterbury, the fictional childhood home of the agent.

The village pub, The Duck Inn, is mentioned in Bond's obituary in the 1964 novel You Only Live Twice.

But perhaps most famously, he used Royal St George's Golf Club at Sandwich as the inspiration for 007's infamous match against Goldfinger.

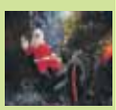
His St Margaret's home, at the foot of cliffs, was also the spark for the rocket installation in Moonraker.



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Making a difference to young lives

Jenny Whittle, Kent County Council cabinet member for specialist children's services, reflects on the good work the department's adoption service provides and how the crucial work of adopters is valued



LAST week we held Kent County Council's annual Adoption Summit which provides the perfect opportunity to look back on the past year and reflect on our achievements and the challenges ahead.

The room was filled with adoption workers, managers, health and education workers, as well as adopters – all people who work together to do their best for the children of Kent.

We had speakers from academia, the Department for Education, from health, KCC and children's charity Coram, but the highlight of the day was the moving and funny story told by Jonathan, an adopter who shared the journey he and his wife embarked on to get their little girl.

Stories like his underline the importance of remembering adoption is so much more than statistics and scorecards.

He, like so many others who have adopted, spoke of the moment they 'knew' they had met their child and this is the chemistry which comes when a good match has been made.

Our social workers know the importance of this and we know that sometimes, even if it takes a little longer, the right match is crucial and worth the wait.

This is not to say we aren't hugely proud of the improvements we have made to our service, in partnership with Coram, which has seen a massive increase in children placed in permanent homes and the numbers of adopters recruited.

In the first eight months of this year, 110 children have been placed in adoptive homes compared to 68 for the whole of 2011/12.

The number of adopters approved since April this year is 115, compared to 67 for the whole of 2011/12. We have also reduced the time it takes to adopt which is something adoptive parents tell us is really important.

These improvements are very significant and they have been achieved with the help of our unique two-year partnership with leading children's charity Coram.

Coram has helped us by keeping an absolute focus on performance and doing everything we can to find homes for children. The partnership has been so successful we have agreed to extend it for a further year to help us build on the strong foundations we have already established.

This partnership also led to the decision to hold our first ever adoption activity day and one of the first held in the UK since the 1980s.

I, like many others, met this idea with trepidation as some considered it distasteful – it has been described as 'eBay for children'.

We did a lot of research and put careful consideration into how we would prepare both children and adopters before deciding to go ahead with the day.

I admit I was nervous when I arrived at the pirate-themed event on a baking hot day in July this year.

Walking into the grounds which had been set up with games, crafts and sports, seeing adults wandering round with eye patches and parrots on their shoulders and watching the children running around shrieking with laughter, you could have been at any sort of summer fete.

So many people have told us they were impressed by how prepared the children were and how relaxed the day was.

Most importantly, however, of the 54 children who came along, 16 have now been matched with families and 11 of those are already living with their adoptive parents.

This is what we want for all the children waiting to be adopted and why it is crucial to do everything we can to find them families.

I think back to my late-mother's experience in care, of multiple breakdowns in foster placements and several placements in children's homes.

If her local authority had worked harder to find her an adoptive family in her early childhood, I often think the sense of rejection she always felt as a result of her traumatic upbringing could have been avoided.

There are still significant challenges nationwide in adoption, in particular further reducing the delays throughout the adoption process, including the courts.

We have improved our relationship with the local judiciary and we are working with them to speed up this process.

We are trying to tackle delays ourselves by starting to look for potential parents for a child as soon as the decision is made that adoption is the right plan for the child, rather than waiting for a court order.

Looking to the future, our priorities for the year ahead are not just to increase the number of adopters we recruit, but making sure we recruit from a wide range of backgrounds to meet the needs of children waiting for homes.

We already have a wide range of post-adoption support services, but we will continue to improve them to make sure parents can always get the help they need.

People turn to adoption for all sorts of reasons and when they have a child placed with them they really do make a difference to that young person's chances in life.

But any adopter will tell you that their child has also changed their life in ways they never dreamed possible.

The personal stories of adopters are very powerful and when they tell you their experiences what remains is the fact that the love for their child is as strong as any birth parent and they feel just like any other family.

Kent County Council hosts a range of adoption events across the county for those who are tentatively thinking about adopting to have an opportunity to speak to those who have adopted.

Anyone wondering whether adoption is right for them should visit our website www.kentadoption.co.uk to read the experiences of our adopters and find out how to take the first step or call 0845 330 2968.

Please do get in touch.

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‘Tis the season to be careful

With the latest gadgets likely to be nestled under many Christmas trees, crooks will be hoping for a merry festive season by pinching the most in-demand. So how can you deter them? **Joe Bill** finds out

AS WE become a nation evermore reliant on electrical goods, this Christmas is expected to see the number of gadgets sold reach record highs.

From the boom sector of handheld tablet computers, with touch screens and portable power, to the latest generation smart phones, as a county we will fork out millions to get our nearest and dearest the gadget of their dreams.

But with the boom in sales comes a sharp increase in the number of owners becoming the victim of crime.

After all, where once a crook had to try and lift a heavy TV set to be sure of a healthy black market return, today they need only slip a few of the lightest devices into their pockets to have hit pay day.

And there appears to be no slowdown in the number of us spending time staring at colourful screens.

“There is no doubt there is a real continuation of the electrical theme this year,” says Nigel Davies, branch manager of the John Lewis at home store in Tunbridge Wells, as he reflects on what he expects to see fly off the shelves.

“We are seeing significant continual growth in that area especially with the recent launch of the iPad Air [Apple’s latest, wafer-thin iPad]. It has already been our top-selling line for about five weeks now.”

All of which means there is an ever-increasing amount of expensive gadgets and electricals in homes across the county this holiday season – something we should be wary of according Chief Inspector Lee Russell of Kent Police.

“Do what Santa does,” he said, “keep them hidden away until Christmas Day.”

Figures for home burglaries increase at this time of year as opportunist thieves look to make the most of our splurge on technology.

According to police data from 2012, 8.7 per cent of the year’s domestic break-ins happen in December. And police are warning the public to be sensible in not advertising their electrical gifts to criminals.

Ch Insp Russell adds: “The figures for burglaries don’t go up dramatically over this period, but we have seen a slight increase. They are still very low in comparison with other areas of the country, but it is particularly poignant at this time of year.

“Just remember that as you know you are buying things for Christmas, the criminal knows that too.”

TOP PRESENT IDEAS

Apple iPad mini	£319
Microsoft Xbox One	£430
Google Nexus 7 tablet	£199
Nike+ FuelBand SE	£129
Kenwood kMix stand food mixer	£379
Gold Apple iPhone 5S	£549
Bose noise-cancelling headphones	£259
Teksta robotic puppy (pictured right)	£55
Sony Playstation 4	£349
Starbucks Verismo 600 coffee maker	£199.99



With the top Christmas presents for 2013 expected to include the new Xbox One and Sony Playstation 4 game consoles, food processors, headphones, and of course tablet computers, the authorities are urging us to think about how we display the items – and that may mean not pandering to tradition.

“Don’t put them on show or be obvious,” the officer says.

“It’s bad enough to have your house broken into, but leaving presents under the tree is a fairly obvious location for someone to come in and spoil your Christmas.”

Putting empty electricals boxes on pavements outside waiting for the refuse men to collect is an obvious no-no.

But as the techno age continues to advance so do the security options available to gadget owners.

Last month, police arrested a man in Lewisham following the theft of an iPad from a home in Tunbridge Wells.

The owner of the tablet had installed a ‘tracking app’ which allowed both him and the police to locate the stolen item miles away from the original crime.

Ch Insp Russell adds: “That was one success story and there have been a number of similar instances in Kent.

So I would recommend that anyone who has the ability to place a tracker on their device is to make sure they do.

Lots of tablets and phones have the ability to have information wiped remotely too, that’s fantastic and we encourage people to utilise the extra technology that’s within those devices.

“Gadgets are a big target for thieves now. These items are just normal things that people carry on them now so that’s why there is a big risk that they will be stolen.”

According to technology website Hongkiat.com, the best tracking apps include FindMyiPhone, IHound, GadgetTrak, Device Locator and Phone Trace. The use of tracking devices has been well publicised in recent months and Ch Insp Russell is advising gadget lovers to take even further precautions to protect their devices.

He adds: “Of course, thieves will get wise to it and find ways of stopping us tracing them.

“So you should do the basics as well. Mark your devices with a UV pen or a forensic solution.

“We do often get property back and sometimes it’s difficult to identify where it’s from if there are no marks.”

Further safety measures include making a note of your smart phone’s IMEI number – which identifies your unique phone – and the serial number on tablets.

Parents are also being urged to talk to youngsters about protecting their gadgets as it was reported nationally that 48 per cent of victims of mobile phone theft are aged under 18.

Police have also said they will be upping patrols in town centres as the surge in customers hitting the shops provides ample targets for thieves.

“We have to support our communities. We have some great places to socialise and shop and, of course, if you have more people out there there will be more opportunities for those thieves who wish to spoil your Christmas.

“When shopping and drawing cash out, in town centres, try and avoid drawing large amounts of cash out and try not to draw attention to yourself while you are doing it.

“Keep your PIN covered and if there is a bank where you can go in and get money out rather than using an ATM, it is far more secure.”



WE ARE SAILING: MyFerryLink will be allowed to continue operations until final decision by Competition Commission

Ruling means legal battle to continue on high seas

EUROTUNNEL chiefs have declared it a "victory for the consumer" after a previous ruling its MyFerryLink service should be grounded was overturned.

But bosses at rival operator DFDS Seaways stressed there were "no winners or losers" in the latest legal outcome, with a final decision still to be made.

In June, MyFerryLink was given six months to stop its ferry operation from Dover to Calais.

The Competition Commission had ruled the service was stifling competition on the cross-Channel route, after competitors raised concerns.

They claimed Eurotunnel's involvement meant it had a monopoly share of the cross-Channel market – through the Channel Tunnel and ferry service – and so could keep prices artificially low, putting a huge strain on those firms only operating ferry routes.

The original ruling, made earlier this year, appeared to support that point.

But on Wednesday, the Competition Appeal Tribunal reversed the decision to ground the service, on one point, meaning it will now be referred back to the Competition Commission to rule on – leaving MyFerryLink to continue operations for the time being.

Jacques Gounon, chairman and chief executive of Groupe Eurotunnel, said: "This is a victory for the consumer. We are delighted by the tribunal's decision which recognises the benefits and practicalities of our presence in the maritime cross-Channel market."

But Carsten Jensen, vice-president of DFDS Seaways, said people should "cautiously evaluate" whether it was a victory for MyFerryLink.

He stressed the matter had been referred to the tribunal on just one point – the commission ruling on the way Eurotunnel bought the assets of defunct SeaFrance and leased them to the new operator.

The tribunal found the commission had no jurisdiction on this.

But Mr Jensen said the matter still remained that the Competition Commission did not think the current situation at the Port of Dover was sustainable.

"We are all hoping for clarification on this issue so we can get it sorted and everyone is assured," he said.

P&O says it is considering the implications of the ruling, while the Port of Dover said it will assess the impact following discussions with the ferry firms.

"Our principal concern is running a successful business to serve our customers and to protect the jobs of our staff," said a spokesman.

"We believe this is best served by promoting vigorous competition on a level playing field.

"We await the outcome of this process with interest."

The problems arose when Eurotunnel bought three ferries from the remains of SeaFrance which went bust last year.

Alasdair Smith, deputy chairman of the commission, said in June when the original decision was made: "It cannot be good for competition when Eurotunnel, which already holds a market share of more than 40 per cent, moves into the ferry business – particularly when it did so to stop a competitor from buying the ferries."





During a cross-Channel voyage in May, 30-year-old Richard Fearnside went outside for a cigarette never to be seen again. Now his mother has begun an online petition to lobby ferry operators to improve safety

If CCTV was on ferry deck, riddle of just how our son disappeared would have been solved

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

DEVASTATED parents trying to pick up the pieces of their life after their son disappeared while on a cross-Channel ferry have been overwhelmed by the support they have received.

Richard Fearnside, 30, was returning from holiday in May on a P&O ferry bound for Dover when he told his partner he was popping outside for a cigarette.

He was never seen again. It is presumed he fell overboard.

Recently his parents, Marianne and Bob Fearnside, called ferry companies to install CCTV cameras on outside passenger decks.

In just a couple of weeks, more than 83,000 people have signed their online petition.

"I want this campaign to go international," Mrs Fearnside told KoS at her home in Whitstable this week.

"If there had been a CCTV camera on deck it could have been checked as soon as Richard was reported missing.

"It would have told us where to start the search and may have helped the search and rescue teams find him."

Richard Fearnside and his fiancée were travelling from Calais to Dover on-board P&O ferry the Pride of Kent on May 21. The couple had been holidaying in the south of France and caught the 11.30pm crossing back to England when he went missing.

It has left his family with the agony of uncertainty.

His mother, an artist, said: "I don't know what happened to Richard. I don't know whether he'd decided he had enough and jumped; I don't know whether he had an accident or he fell.

"He had been driving through France for 14 hours without sleep. He could have been dizzy and fell overboard. We don't even know if someone came up and pushed him in."

The alarm was raised by Mr Fearnside's fiancée as they docked in Dover.

Mrs Fearnside vividly remembers the phone call she received at 1am explaining her son was missing.

"His fiancée phoned us and was completely beside herself that he had disappeared," she remembers.

"She was with the police in Dover and we drove down there. We couldn't believe it.

"They searched the boat, but he wasn't there and that was it.

"We just went numb. It is still total shock. I haven't come to terms with it.

"Richard wouldn't have committed suicide, he loved life. We really thought he would turn up for a while.

"We were even driving back from the port looking around the road to see if he was walking home."

> **"I'm fighting because it takes me close to Richard again, and I want to do something in his memory. I am not letting him slip away and this be covered up"**
>
> **Marianne Fearnside,** on reason for wanting to see on-deck CCTV



REMEMBERED: Marianne with her son Richard, whose body has never been found since disappearing in May

Mrs Fearnside, a former teacher at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in Faversham, explained the only other way off the boat would have been if her son had climbed into the back of a lorry.

But with CCTV operating on that level of the boat, and no foot passengers on night-time crossings, it would have been very difficult for him not to have been seen.

Despite efforts by search and rescue helicopters and the coastguard, no body was ever found.

His mother added: "Someone said to me 'I suppose you will have to go through an inquest'.

"And I thought 'nobody has mentioned an inquest to me', so I phoned the police and asked about it and they said there can't be an inquest because there is no evidence.

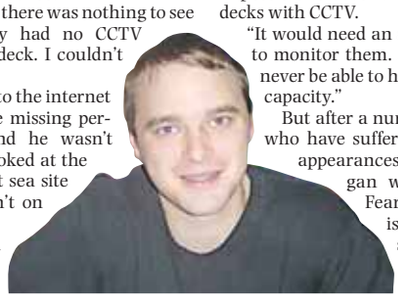
"They said there was nothing to see because they had no CCTV cameras on deck. I couldn't believe it.

"I went onto the internet and onto the missing person's site and he wasn't there, so I looked at the people lost at sea site and he wasn't on there either.

"I looked at P&O's site and he wasn't on there – he wasn't anywhere, he had just gone. He was even missing from the missing, he wasn't even a statistic. I am not having my son completely discounted.

"So I am fighting because it takes me close to Richard again, and I want to do something in his memory.

"I am not letting him just slip away and letting this be covered up."



Despite repeated attempts to get P&O to change their views on CCTV, it has said it does not have the staff or the space to be able to put CCTV cameras around the passenger decks.

A spokesman for the company said: "Whilst P&O Ferries extends its deepest sympathy to the Fearnside family, we have explained that it would be impossible to cover all of the outside decks with CCTV.

"It would need an army of people to monitor them. And we would never be able to have the storage capacity."

But after a number of people, who have suffered similar disappearances on ferries, began writing to Mrs Fearnside, the artist decided to start up her petition.

She said: "The only way we are going to make a change is public opinion and putting pressure on the likes of P&O.

"The more people write and talk about it and the longer it is in the public arena – that is the only way we will get change because they are getting bad publicity."

With CCTV on the majority of other forms of public transport, Mrs Fearnside also questioned why ferries aren't made to have CCTV on the decks.

She asked: "Surely if you undertake to transport people for money you should have a duty of care?

"The last sighting we have of Richard is from a CCTV camera next to the duty-free shop. CCTV is there to protect the goods, but they don't have any to protect the passengers."

Mrs Fearnside said the family do sometimes fantasise Richard is on a cruise around the Caribbean and one day he will walk back into their lives.

"You just want that tiny bit of hope. But it's just a fantasy. It's just so harsh," she reflects.

"We probably won't ever know what happened to our beloved son, but our loss has shown how woefully inadequate the safety measures are to prevent the loss of life on passenger ferries."

• If you would like to sign Marianne Fearnside's petition visit http://chn.ge/1izFYbg

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Time for law to make fly-grazing criminal offence

Chris Murphy reports on the growing problem of horses being abandoned in fields – or fly-grazing as it is more commonly known – and the fight to tackle an issue that's proving costly for landowners

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to make the act of dumping a horse in a field illegal.

Currently, it is regarded as a simple case of trespass and it is down to the landowner to take action if they want to move the animals on.

That generally requires private legal action against the person who put the horse in the field – and identifying those responsible is often an immediate problem.

It's known as 'fly-grazing' and the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) wants it made a crime amid a mounting number of cases, brought on by the gloomy state of the economy.

Horses are generally abandoned because of the cost of looking after them with food, shelter and veterinary expenses becomes too much to bear.

South east director of the CLA, a membership organisation which represents rural landowners, Robin Edwards, said: "The landowner left with these abandoned horses is also left with the cost of looking after them, the legal responsibility for any damage or injury caused by them, and with having to deal with the lost grazing for their own stock and any damage caused.

"With local authorities already having to deal with horses left on publicly-owned land and animal charities at full stretch, it is often down to the landowner to take costly legal action to have the horses removed safely.

"The current mechanisms in place for any prosecution are insufficient and the culprits find them no deterrent. Sometimes horses are simply moved around in a cycle before action can be taken."Without a criminal act, the police cannot intervene at the time."

The National Farmers' Union (NFU) in Kent is also backing the campaign.

It said: "We'd like to see a tightening of the law on horse passports and for fly-grazing to become a criminal offence.

"In the meantime, police and local authorities need to develop robust procedures for joint working to tackle the scourge of fly-grazing. We have welcomed the parliamentary debate on this issue."

Thirty MPs discussed the issue in Westminster recently, responding to rising claims from members of their constituencies about the problem.

The Welsh Government is already planning to push through a new bill to tackle the issue, while Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) has so far failed to take action.

The NFU, meanwhile, is concerned about responsibility for enforcing any new legislation.

It said local authorities and police could be needed to be in a position to take action, and one major asset would be a new system of horse passport regulations that need to be amended to improve traceability of animals.

Although generally regarded as already overstretched with job losses, the union also wants the police to draw up protocols for dealing with fly-grazing and attend horse seizures at the request of local authorities, saying the force must also develop procedures to deal with stray equines on public highways.

The NFU said it is constantly being told by horse owners and supporting welfare groups that "indiscriminate horse breeding" is a major problem, along with weaknesses in the equine identification system.

A spokesman added: "Compulsory microchipping may have helped a little, for horses born after August 1, 2009, but what is needed is a single equine database. A voluntary approach has already failed and the passport system is open to fraud because there are arguably too many passport issuing bodies."

And it's not just live horses that can cause problems.

An NFU spokesman said: "One of our members in Kent, who didn't want publicity for fear of recrimination, found a coloured mare that had died in the process of foaling.

"It had been dumped on the farm near a bridleway. A vehicle and trailer thought to be involved in dumping it were seen by workmen on the farm.

"We never found out whether it had belonged to fly-grazers, or a broke owner who couldn't afford to dispose of the bodies.

"But it shows there are horse owners out there who possibly cannot afford to care for the animals they own or dispose of them properly."

The RSPCA confirms it is a concern for landowners, and one that appears be getting worse year on year.

A spokesman said: "It is a huge problem and we estimate there are around 5,500 fly-grazed horses in England and Wales.

"Fly-grazing is illegal, but the law needs to be much more robust so as not to leave landowners with the problem and leaving horses without the proper care or adequate grazing.

"Abandonment of animals, and failing to meet their welfare needs, is also an offence under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. It is a problem throughout the country."

The CLA's Robin Edwards added: "Some local authorities and police forces are putting procedures in place to tackle this growing problem, but it's not enough.

"The only real solution is to make horse abandonment a crime so that those who break the law are dealt with efficiently and appropriately."

With costs of looking after the animals always rising, Kent Police is warning people to be on their guard if they are offered one for sale.

There have been allegations some are sold which are not as described and which are often lame or carrying injuries.

Kent Police's PC Erin Thornton said: "Allegations have been made that horses are being sold by horse dealers as suitable for novice riders or children. Victims have told us they discovered noticeable problems with their new horse, which on some occasions have led to injuries as well as unexpected financial burdens."

• What do you think? Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

No party politics, no agenda, just a desire to improve our force

Police and Crime Commissioner **Ann Barnes** argues against comments to scrap role and spotlights the benefits it brings…

YOU might have seen in the media over the last few weeks articles on the Lord Stevens report, part of which called for the scrapping of police commissioners.

I'm not a political person, but this did strike a chord with me.

I think we all need to get back to basics and stop these knee-jerk reactions.

There will always be someone to oversee policing on behalf of local people, be it in the form of a committee or police commissioner.

Also, whatever structure the Government puts in place, the reality is there will always be a cost to it.

But constant changing from one police governance to another will not help the public.

What we need to do is give police and crime commissioners time to bed in, to demonstrate the worth of the role, and for the electorate to decide at the next election how well everyone, including myself, has performed.

For me, the people of Kent benefit from my role.

As I am an independent there is no place for party politics in policing in Kent at all. No matter what happens there will never be political interference.

Gone are the days of committees



bogged down by red tape and board papers. There is now one identifiable person who will be the public face of policing and community safety in our county – and with that comes great responsibility.

I took an oath more than a year ago to represent you, the people of Kent, and I like to think I am making some headway with this.

Last week my profile piece in this newspaper showed a lot of the work I'm doing around victims, support services, visible policing and using technology in an innovative way.

The role cuts across so many areas of policing; from holding the chief constable to account for how he delivers policing in the county, to being as open and transparent as I can.

I'm always one for giving the people a greater chance to have their say (and believe me they do) and to get involved.

It is that involvement which is so important. People power is what makes this role important. All my decisions are driven by this and by public priorities. I really want to hear from you.

Next week I will be asking the people of Kent to get in touch with me about future police funding.

So do keep an eye out on my website and @AnnBarnesKPCC to get involved in the debate.

On a separate note, I wish all KoS readers a fantastic Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

I can't wait to put my feet up and spend time with my lovely family and friends.

Best wishes, Ann

PCC to put Paris Brown saga behind her with new youth commissioner

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

INTERVIEWS with hopefuls for the post of youth commissioner for Kent have been carried out with a possible appointment in the coming weeks.

Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes revealed to KoS a shortlist of five hopefuls were in the running for the £15,000 salaried post.

The five have been whittled down from 46 applicants. There were 64 in the last application process.

Mrs Barnes said that when the previous youth commissioner Paris Brown was chosen, it took three weeks before she was officially announced.

It could mean a fresh appointment before Christmas.

If Mrs Barnes wants the appointment to be announced with as little fanfare as possible following the debacle in April, the festive period might be best suited, when people are on holiday or perhaps not keeping a keen eye on the news.

Mrs Barnes, however, has never shied away from her belief that a youth commissioner should be appointed and so it's likely she will choose the New Year, to take advantage of a fresh year, fresh start.

Miss Brown, 17, and from Sheerness, was chosen in April as youth commissioner, to help bridge the gap between the younger generation and the police.

But she was exposed for offensive rants on social networking site Twitter, alluding to racism, underage drinking and homophobia

Torn apart by the press, her position was untenable and just days after being appointed she stepped down from the post.

But Mrs Barnes is determined to push ahead with her youth commissioner pledge. And the county, and nation, will no doubt look on with considerable interest.

"It took about three weeks before we officially announced Paris, so it will be about the same again," she said.

"I feel so strongly about it, I know there is a need for this person and I'm looking forward to appointing them."

The age range of the shortlist is slightly older this time, from 19-23, although Mrs Barnes said this was simply down to their applications and not a deliberate desire to recruit someone older than Miss Brown.

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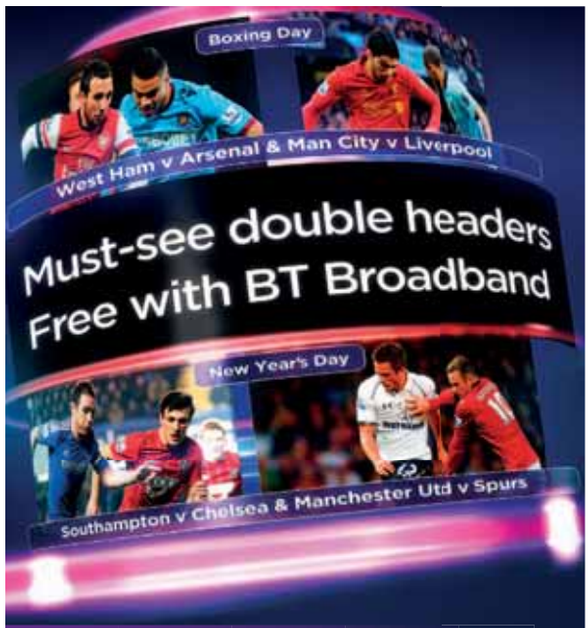


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VARIETY: The overhaul of the church means it can accommodate music, dance and arts





B ɬ ɨ ɲ ɒ b for reformed church

Revelation St Mary's is fast becoming a focal point for the arts and has a big two years ahead, writes **Greg Miles**

AFTER quietly going about its business since an artistic transformation two years ago, a church in Ashford is on the way to becoming a must-visit venue in the county.

Revelation St Mary's went from an ordinary church to a hub for the arts after a reordering and refurbishment costing a cool £1.7 million.

After steadily establishing itself in the entertainment world as a unique new venue, it is now branching out. Funding is helping with the appointment of new staff and opening up partnerships with promoters that could see big names flocking to the town.

Indie foursome The Magic Numbers, Three Lions heroes The Lightning Seeds and Tim Burgess from Britpop favourites The Charlatans are among the early few to get in on the act.

There could be plenty more where that came from, too, courtesy of the links forged with music promoter Melting Vinyl, a company that has made the pubs, clubs and big venues of Brighton its stomping ground in recent years.

Its contemporary expertise should dovetail with creative director Matthew Sharpe, who made his mark as director of Deal Festival, and will bring a different perspective to programming.

Also joining the cast is new general manager Karen Trimmings, who has worked at the Towner Gallery in Eastbourne and the Komedia venues in Brighton and Bath.

"It's a really good opportunity for me and quite a change in a different type of organisation," said Trimmings. "Unfortunately, I didn't know anything about it as I lived in Hastings.

"I really like the reordering of the church. It seems like quite a transformation. We are not just the village hall – we're a proper venue.

"It's really exciting, we're looking to offer 24 shows a year and offering a more varied programme of classical groups, orchestra, developing it for emerging artists and looking at gallery space for artists, or literature talks.

"We are all coming from the same place and want to make sure it's really accessible for the community."

It has been made possible thanks to funding from the Arts Council that will bankroll bookings for the next two years.

With a capacity of just 350, Revelation St Mary's will always struggle to pay for itself just through music, but with avenues such as family bookings, functions and art exhibitions opening up as a result of the reordering, which permits secular use in places of worship, it is hoped it will become self-sustaining.

Chris Dixon, who works as an arts officer at Ashford Borough Council, has been involved in the project from the start and is excited about the new direction at St Mary's after seeing it open up as a multi-purpose venue in July 2011.

He feels it is exactly what the town needs, having previously lacked a substantial performance space for both emerging and established talent.

"It's never happened before. We are talking about pubs and community halls. They're not the type of environments where you can attract those kind of acts," he said. "Historically, way before my time, I've heard of halls when things happened, but we're probably talking about the 1950s and 60s.

"There hasn't been a central hub. St Mary's was in terms of choral societies and acts and events, but there wasn't the infrastructure such as lighting and sound equipment in place to satisfy major artists. Nor was there the organisation.

"It's not a money-making business. It all goes into the upkeep and maintenance. The arts always struggles to wipe its face, but we use some of the funding for quality arts programming."

The new set-up sees the venue managed by a trust to which Dixon is an adviser, with vicar Colin Preece taking the role of chairman. And with the new creative help at hand behind the scenes, it is in a position to go places.

"It's not like we just want to put on a few gigs," said Dixon. "We need to be working with the best of the best. We have got an ambitious project for the next two years.

"Melting Vinyl have pretty much

Continued on page 37 »

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SUE young at heart female, very adventurous and looking for no strings fun with mature man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409251**

JAN 38yr old attractive lonely female looking for uncomplicated fun times only. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409107**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1960 Box No: 408297**

JOANNA slim attractive blue eyed blonde nurse, divorced with two teenagers, lots of love to give, looking for Mr Right, call me lets put the spark back. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409097**

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FLOR beautiful educated European blonde, articulate, seeking similar intelligent well-mannered mature gent to enjoy socialising, conversing and quality times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408293**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019**

BLONDE female, 5ft 1ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025**

KAREN 55, fun loving, attractive, young at heart, seeks caring, affectionate man, 55-65 who loves animals and the simple things in life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408813**

SUSIE, seeks fifty shades of grey with guy any age but must be discreet, call and I will explain why. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 407321**

MANDY blonde, blue eyes, voluptuous, honest, likes animals, walks, socialising, seeking older gent, late 70's early 80's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408741**

SELSEA 43, driver, own home, N/S, 5ft 8ins, slim, dark hair, green eyes, confident, outgoing, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 40-48. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408405**

SATURDAY night blues! Home alone again and looking for male companionship. Blonde, slim, 32yrs, attractive, what are you waiting for? Call me if you're normal and lovely. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408867**

SOPHIE attractive hard working female, who enjoys dancing and good company, WLTM loving male to enjoy nights out and genuine laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408625**

MARG elegant attractive affectionate lady who enjoys many varied interests WLTM genuine male 50-60yrs for mutual indulgences. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408511**

HEATHER enjoys holidays, eating in with a large bottle of wine, cooking, meeting new people seeking interesting male to get to know a little better. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408509**

ALEX 35, very attractive, slim, blonde, caring sensitive single mum, likes meals in/out, nice pubs, WLTM similar male/dad to love and care for. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408503**

LISA busty blonde 34yr old fun to be with single party goer, looking for similar male for adult fun maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408289**

ELAINE lonely divorced female with no ties, enjoys dog walking, cosy nights in, looking for reliable caring male to spend quality time **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408283**

25YR old very lonely unloved Asian female seeking true love, must be very discreet, enjoy good nights out and able to accommodate cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408249**

CATH attractive tall blonde, likes travel, walking, romantic nights out, cosy nights in, looking for Prince Charming, must be passionate and loyal. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408245**

KAREN blonde, long legged, many interests, very young looking, outgoing, adventurous, likable, WLTM my soul mate, could that be you? Pls call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407953**

CHRIS 39yr old attractive well built sporty lady looking for tall, happy, well built male to enjoy adult companionship, hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407935**

CATHY divorced independent hopeless romantic seeking special gent to spend really nice times with, get to know and take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407623**

LUCY truly wonderful brunette who really loves life, seeking sincere male for true friendship with a little romance thrown in for good measure. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407457**

HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383**

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, seeks male, 65-75 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403275**

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406779**

SLIM N/S female, 54, working, reliable, easy going, likes nature, animals, seeks nice male companion, 50-64 for country/seaside walks and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405745**

JACQUELINE 79 widow, easy going, good listener, not slim or neurotic, OHAC, Sevenoaks, lonely would like gentleman's company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405533**

ATTRACTIVE female, 53, N/S, 5ft 8ins, looking for similar male, 50-55 who loves countryside, animals and is easygoing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405421**

AMANDA 44 blonde, blue eyed, very leggy, fun to be with, honest and caring seeking kind, considerate honest gent 74-79 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405315**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, Military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405707**

JOYCE 83, widow, WLTM gent with GSOH for days out, friendship, companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273**

DELILAH 49, likes animals, blonde, blue eyes, seeking older gent, late 70's who is kind and willing to care about me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403769**

LISA 44, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, nice personality, trustworthy, kind, likes cinema, nights in, walks, music, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404751**

59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large build, dog lover, easygoing, GSOH, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403071**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852**

LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101**

SOPHIA beautiful, slim, sophisticated, loves living life to the full, enjoys many interests, seeks generous businessman who would appreciate a sensual woman. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407467**



Men Seeking

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MALE seeking attractive female for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409189**

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857**

CHRIS 52, slim, looking for female, 25-38, slim, 5ft 2ins plus for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408575**

DAVE 50, likes holidays, meals out, socialising, easy going, seeks female 40 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408541**

ADAM 48, single dad, bored, seeking fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408421**

DAVE 50, seeks female of similar age for meals out, holidays etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408415**

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Medway area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408343**

MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408941**

DAVE 45, 6ft, large build, ginger hair, green eyes, caring, OHAC, likes laugh, cinema, pubs, restaurants, walks, shopping, music, dvds, gardening, animals, seeks female of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405451**

60YR old black female, sociable, seeks romantic, articulate white male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402523**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2ins, likes animals, walks, travel, gardening, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402067**

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805**

RETIRED male, 66, 6ft 2ins, easy going, GSOH, loyal, loves pets, meals out, life, seeks lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407317**

MALE 67, professional, fit, 5ft 10ins, medium build, reliable, tactile, likes most things, seeks slim lady, let's go! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407855**

STEVE 6ft 4ins, OHAC, seeking relationship, outdoor type, homely, wanting mutual good relationship with sexy woman. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407835**

ANTHONY 48, athletic, enjoys country walks, seeks youthful female for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407355**

71YR old romantic, 6ft, likes life, socialising, reading, strong tea, dogs, smoker but house trained seeks mature lady needing TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407277**

TALL friendly, very light hearted, single 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR, mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. Croydon. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407147**

BLACK male, looking for 1-2-1 relationship with laid back, understanding female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406221**

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405519**

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388372**

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easygoing, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589**

DOG lover short of British slim petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1 relationship and start something new. Smoker welcome, age immaterial. Tunbridge Wells area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417**

TALL slim male, early 40's, seeks loving female, 29-39 to share the nice things in life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407065**

PROFESSIONAL 45yr old male, one son, bored of the same thing, seeks lady for possible romance. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386234**

CHRIS 68, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

55YR old male, average looks, GSOH, looking to meet similar lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408227**

JAMIE 6ft 1ins, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 40-50, easy going for no strings fun, nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408051**

CANTERBURY mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim-medium build female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

SEXY fireman, looking for love and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407883**

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STEVE 64, active, likes fishing, swimming, karaoke, honest, genuine, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405717**

LIGHT hearted 58yr old male, 6ft, blue eyes, slim, lively, active, seeks pretty woman 28-50 for fun times. Croydon. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393567**

MIKE 39, 6ft 7ins, large build, blue eyes, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406321**

BARRY 67, 6ft, well built, seeks female for wining, dining and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787**



KEVIN 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405**

35YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, easy going, likes music, films, reading, walks, looking for female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405941**

DISCREET kind man, 48, gentle, loving, genuine, seeking lady, Whitstable. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406439**

SWANSEA man, 51, 5ft 6ins, slim, seeks slim female for nights in/out, company, walks, talks and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402033**

40 something Gemini 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, varied outdoor interests, seeks similar outgoing female, 30-45 for dates and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404535**

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013**

PROFESSIONAL romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195**

SLIM 67yr old male, fit, loving, 5ft 7ins, blue eyes, independent, sociable, easygoing, enjoys usual, seeks honest lady to share it all with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401245**

ALEC 57, likes keep fit, cycling, GSOH, seeks lady, 40 plus for fitness and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339463**

CANTERBURY cyclist 50's, fit, seeks female of similar age and interests for uncomplicated fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394569**

FUN fit, 60yr old male, seeks older, well-built female for no strings discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404971**

RICHARD divorced, 61, N/S, likes classic cars, looking to meet nice lady for meals out, days out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406349**

BRIAN fun loving, easygoing, likes meals out, nights in, DVDs, seeks loving female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381449**

VINCENT 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377397**

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719**

GARY 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175**

BARRY 49, 6ft, well built, easygoing, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401401**

JOHN 40, likes nights out, pubs, clubs, walks, countryside, GSOH, N/S, dad of one, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390119**

YOUNG 64yr old fit, active male, seeks similar female for outings and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365642**

VIC mid 60's medium build male, active, N/S, likes countryside, DIY, seeks compatible female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405085**

51YR old male, dark hair, 6ft, N/S, good looking, likes finer things in life, seeks lady for fun times and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399867**

MIKE from Canterbury 57, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim female, 21-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379673**

FUN fit, friendly 50yr old male, medium build, seeking female for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400045**

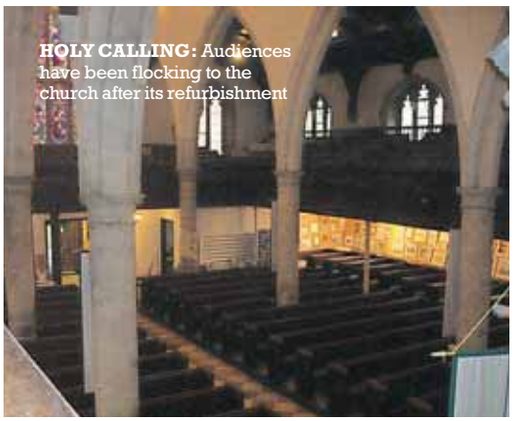
DENNIS 53yrs retired police officer living in Kent, WLTM female for mutual fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404201**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, OHAC, independent, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Children/animals welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404537**

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HOLY CALLING: Audiences have been flocking to the church after its refurbishment





« Continued from page 35

cornered the Brighton music scene. Anna Moulson heads up the company and she programmes the Brighton Dome to smaller gigs.

"She's got a huge spectrum and she's programmed the likes of Mumford and Sons before.

"We are working with her and she's starting to get to grips with what it's like as a programming space and who she could attract here. We're going to get some amazing acts.

"Matthew Sharpe is going to come from a classical route with a quality contemporary twist. We're going to pick some of the interesting characters he knows.

"We have got something really exciting to come here for the next two years.

"By 2014 we're going to have something really interesting to sing about."

It is not just the venue benefiting, though, with fans travelling from outside Ashford thanks to the town's high-speed rail links.

"Music is an easy one for the venue given the location. It's quick and easy to travel here, and for the Continent as well. We are really well placed and centrally located.

"We do audience stats all the time and they're using the high-speed train and coming from the Continent as well. We're starting to get that economic impact in part of the town as well."

The project came about as Dixon looked at how he could boost the arts scene in Ashford, having previously worked for the Arts Council.

"Looking at the position we're in, I realised we weren't going to go down the route of building a purpose-built theatre straight away," he said.

"Especially when you look at what's happening in Kent and you see the infrastructure that's been put in place in east Kent with The Marlowe and Turner.

"It's a great place to be and we didn't want to compete with that but complement it.

"With the idea we weren't going to spend £8 million on a new venue straight away, I worked with the vicar at St Mary's to reorder the church because there were significant problems with the building.

"It needed a lot of work. On the surface, it looked absolutely beautiful inside – it was still an awe-inspiring building. But it needed a lot of help, support and investment to upgrade the facilities they had there."

As a natural 'performance' space for the vicar, parts of the church already lent themselves to being turned over to the arts.

"Acoustic-wise, you couldn't get better," said Dixon. "If you're looking at talking to acoustic consultants to come up with solutions, it costs millions of pounds, but St Mary's has already got it. It's got that aura.

> **"If you're looking at talking to acoustic consultants to come up with solutions, it costs millions of pounds, but St Mary's has already got it"**

There's a lot of people that already go there as part of the congregation and people go there to see people perform."

Certain things just had to go, though.

"There are no pews downstairs. We did a significance report which told us what was important historically and what wasn't. It was a 100-page document and it was the most fascinating read.

"It goes from the start and the beginnings of St Mary's. What sprang out was the bits we needed to restore and bits that weren't significant, such as the pews."

It is not the first reorder at St Mary's, which has served the town in many differing times of need.

"It always used to respond to the needs of the community, be it farmers' markets or anything else," said Dixon. "What we felt we needed now was a centre for the arts.

"There's a lot of organisations that said they used to use St Mary's, but the pews were restrictive and it was too cold."

■ **For more information, visit www.revelationstmarys.co.uk.**





JJ swaps a

From X Factor to a national tour within a year… the power of talent shows seems limitless, JJ Hamblet tells **Greg Miles**

BEING in a boy band with thousands of people screaming for him is not too far from the day job for Union J member JJ Hamblet before he shot to stardom in X Factor.

The group of four, who are warming up for their first UK tour – an arena one at that – with a gig in Margate next week, have had a year to remember since treading a path to the latter stages of the ITV talent show last year.

Although the group, who also include Josh Cuthbert, Jaymi Hensley and George Shelley, lost out in the semi-finals of the competition, which solo artist James Arthur eventually won, they soon signed a record deal with Sony. That has led to two Top 10 UK singles and a Top 10 debut album released in October.

JJ, the eldest of the group at 25, was a jockey before deciding to take the step into the music industry, which is not a great surprise seeing as he grew up in Newmarket in Suffolk, the home of the famed racing course. He also rode in the Queen's colours in a riding career that spanned 270 races and 24 wins.

"You get an adrenaline rush going on stage," he said. "We perform in front of thousands of people and I experienced a little bit of that adrenaline rush riding a horse.

"I do miss it. I try to go back to my home town as much as I can to see everyone. I would like to go back one day and ride again. It's a huge part of my life – my whole family are into horse-racing."

The need to be at home is more pressing than ever for JJ, who became a father for the first time last week with his girlfriend, model Caterina Lopez, giving birth to Princeton J. Alexander.

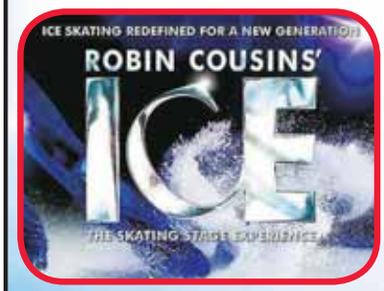
"I would love to be at home," he said. "It's like any job. A lot of people say it's going to be hard, but I always think there's lots of people that work longer hours.

"Obviously I would like to be at home. I'm not going to be home as much as I want to be. The day he was born, I went straight to rehearsals and then straight to Newcastle."

Although singing was always a

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stable for the stage as a star



MAKING FOR MARGATE: JJ Hamblett, third left, and fellow band members in Union J play the Winter Gardens

passion, it was never one that JJ was comfortable in showing off publicly.

"I have always done karaoke – I used to have a karaoke machine in my bedroom," he said.

"I was so wrapped up with my horse-racing at the time, though. I was never at home that much. I was trying to become a jockey.

"I remember when I used to go out and go on holiday I used to do karaoke. But I couldn't do it facing the crowd, I was so scared. I had never really performed in front of anyone.

"It's amazing to know I'm doing a job now that I get a huge rush from."

The Union J rise to fame has come with the standard thousands of screaming girls wherever it is they might be performing or indeed just appearing, which they owe to X Factor.

"When we went to Ireland a couple of times it's been pretty crazy," said JJ. "We went to Portugal to support Selena Gomez. We never expected to have fans overseas. When we arrived, there were about 2,000 girls screaming. They were rocking our bus and going nuts. They saw Josh up front in the bus and knew it was us.

"It all seems like ages ago. We are still pinching ourselves. It was only a year ago that we were on X Factor.

> **"Unless you win, you never know what's going to happen. Then your agent calls to say you're signing for Sony."**

Since then we have released two Top 10 singles and an album. It's absolutely crazy.

"It just goes to show how powerful the show is. After the X Factor you have to go work really hard and hope you go somewhere.

"When you come out of the X Factor, unless you win, you never know what's going to happen. Then you get a call from your agent saying you're going to sign for Sony. It just goes to show you don't have to win the competition.

"Olly Murs finished in the final three and JLS finished second. It's just a platform. You just have to work hard and hope something happens."

There will no doubt be yet more competition for them in the coming weeks as the show churns out another act off its relentless conveyor belt, but that can only be a help for the band, says JJ.

"It's all healthy competition," he said. "You want to be the best band out there. It's always good to have other bands around – it makes you work hard.

"There are bands coming up that could be huge and you want to be better than them."

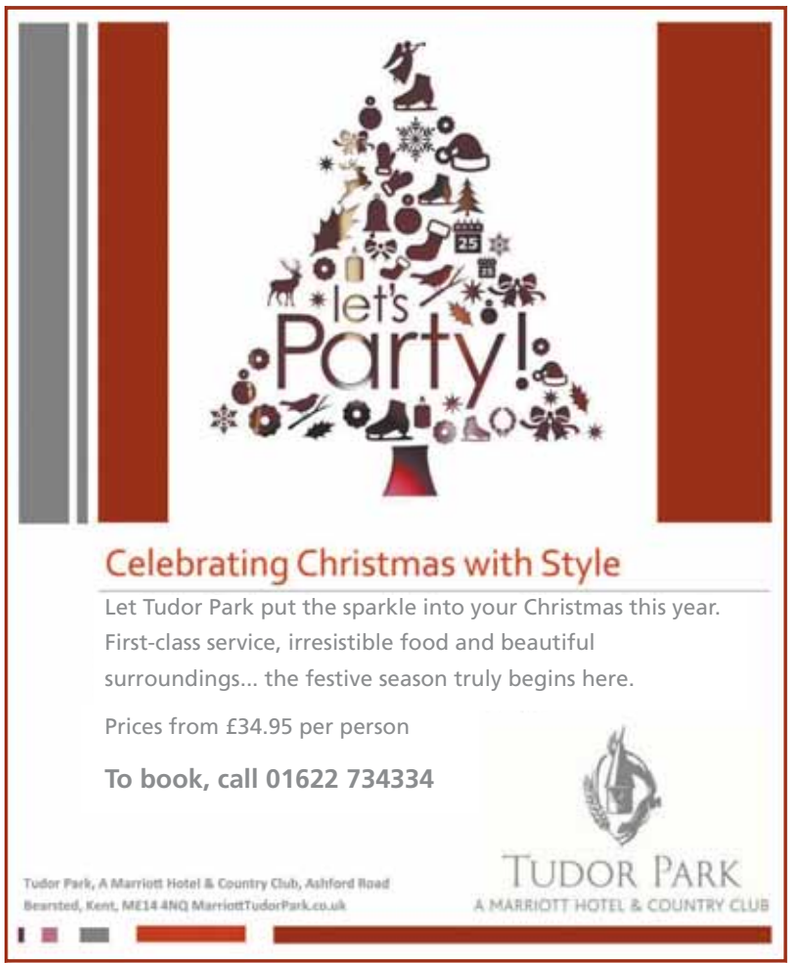
He has a few favourites from this year's crop of talent on show and feels one who recently exited and returned to her Gravesend home will have a bright future.

"You have got Rough Copy, who are a lot different to us, and Kingsland Road. They are great lads and I hope they have huge careers," said JJ.

"I think Luke Friend could win it. He's starting to pick things up and every week he is improving.

"Until last weekend I would have said Tamera Foster. She's more marketable – she'll make it anyway."

■ **There are only a handful of tickets left for the gig at the Winter Gardens in Margate on Tuesday, December 10, at 7.30pm.**
To book tickets, priced at £23.50, visit www.margatewintergardens.co.uk or phone 01843 292795.













of new Turner exhibition

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

THE work of American abstract expressionist painter Helen Frankenthaler will be celebrated at Margate's Turner Contemporary in a new exhibition next year.

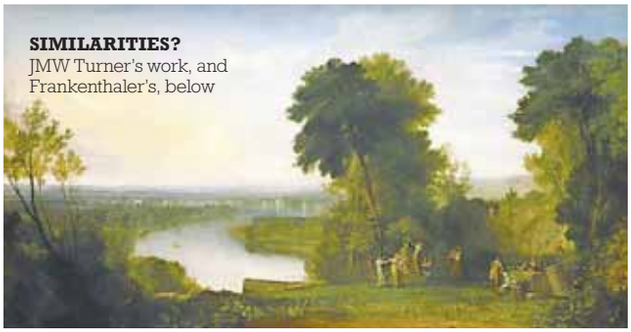
Her work will feature alongside paintings by JMW Turner from the 19th century in an exhibition entitled Making Painting: Helen Frankenthaler and JMW Turner.

Twenty-four of her works will be on show from January 25 until May 11 at the seafront venue; it will be the first time her art has been in a public gallery since it was shown in Whitechapel in 1969.

Turner Contemporary director Victoria Pomery said: "Helen Frankenthaler is a much-overlooked artist, despite being an important voice in the development of abstract expressionism.

"The exhibition provides a unique opportunity to see a significant body of her paintings in the UK alongside some great works by JMW Turner.

"This exhibition explores painting more broadly, allowing similarities as well as differences to be revealed between both artists' practice."



SIMILARITIES? JMW Turner's work, and Frankenthaler's, below



The exhibition seeks to look at the parallels between the artists' works, despite the fact that they were from different continents and centuries.

It has been put together and curated by Turner scholar James Hamilton, who said: "This exhibition encourages us to rely not on what we might know but on what we can see, and to throw off the burden of art history.

"It is the excitements of this conjunction between a romantic 19th-century Briton and an abstract expressionist 20th-century American that the exhibition seeks to evoke, revealing the fellowship the two artists share in paint across their temporal divide, and the vibrant correspondences which uncover something of the timeless cerebral foundations of landscape art."

■ **For more information, visit www.turnercontemporary.org**

Time Out Top Ten

1 Gulbenkian, Canterbury
Dec 10-15 and 17-22
Phone: 01227 769075
Email: www.thegulbenkian.co.uk

Penguin: Festive show presented by Long Nose Puppets. Times vary. Tickets £8.50.

2 Quarterhouse, Folkestone
Wednesday, December 11
Phone: 01303 858500
www.quarterhouse.co.uk

Adrian Edmondson and the Bad Shepherds: Comedy legend does punk in folk style. Tickets £18.50.

3 Winter Gardens, Margate
Thursday, December 12
Phone: 01843 296111
www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

Jason Manford: The Manchester comedian is back in stand-up after a stint in opera. Tickets £22.50.

4 Faversham town centre
Sunday, December 15, and Sunday, December 22
www.faversham.org

Faversham Christmas Markets: Get ready for Christmas with arts, crafts and produce in Market Place.

5 Hazlitt, Maidstone
Saturday, December 14
Phone: 01622 758611
www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk

Hazlitt Choir concert: Join in with songs from musical theatre and popular hits. Tickets £7.50.

6 Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Monday, December 16
Phone: 01303 228600
www.atgtickets.com/folkestone

Remember When at Christmas: Enjoy all the festive favourites with Neil Sands. Tickets from £12.90.

7 Trinity, Tunbridge Wells
Saturday, December 14
Phone: 01892 678678
www.trinitytheatre.net

A Medieval Christmas: Celebrate Christmas with harp, bells and bagpipes. Tickets £14.

8 The Marlowe, Canterbury
Tuesday, December 10
Phone: 01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

Fagan's Last Hour: The story of Oliver Twist told from Fagan's perspective. Tickets £12.

9 Ightham Mote, Sevenoaks
Friday, December 13
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ightham-mote

Carols in the Courtyard: Get into the festive spirtit with carol-singing followed by buffet. Tickets £29.50.

10 Theatre Royal Margate
December 14-29
Phone: 01843 292795
www.theatreroyalmargate.com

Cinderella: Pantomime starring Scott Wright from Coronation Street. Times vary. Tickets £15.

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She's got the sauce and the spirit to win

So determined was Monica Chia to ensure that her company buyout took the operation to the next level that she sold her house. She talks to **Greg Miles**.

A SPECIALIST sauces company is targeting yet another successful chapter in its history after moving into a new production unit.

Karimix, which makes chutneys, sauces, pastes, marinades and more, has settled at a new home in Selling, near Faversham, having previously been stationed in Wye.

This latest move has enabled the company to vastly increase its capacity, leaving the door open for a brighter future.

Behind it all is Monica Chia, who has made tremendous personal sacrifices to make the project work, including selling her house.

The move to Selling means she can produce much more than she ever could in her 8m x 3m room – she now has a floor space of 12,000 sq ft to work with. The extra workload has also meant she has doubled her staff numbers.

"I was looking for a new location for a year. We had reached saturation point and were making losses," she said.

Her ambition meant she had to take the huge risk of selling her house to fund the buyout of the business back in 2005.

"I was still working in the city eight years ago when I bought out all the shares to take full control and ownership to take it from production in a back garden to more," she said.

"If I was going to give up my day job, it had to be for something that worked. I thought this was my opportunity to build on the foundations that had been laid.

"I sold everything that moved because I knew I would not get any income in the first 12 months. I stopped going to the movies, or having takeaways. I knew I had to succeed because I gambled my house on it. It was a risk.

> **"I sold everything that moved because I knew I would not get any income in the first 12 months... I knew I had to succeed"**

"I believe in it and it's nice to hear the bank manager calling and saying 'I cannot believe what figures you're pulling in'."

"If you're a money investor coming into it from that side, all you have is a financial focus. But if you're a foodie coming into it, there's a real investment in how to take things forward."



KMI

Her first objective was to acquire the sought-after British Retail Consortium accreditation, which she did by moving into a manufacturing premises in Derbyshire that already had it in place.

She moved back to Kent in 2010 after her agreement ended in the Midlands, leaving the company in standstill as she looked for a new home for the business.

"The second time we moved we weren't trading for eight months. We had to rebuild the whole facility in a stable in Wye," she said. "I kept a couple of large clients. I borrowed a friend's kitchen to keep the business ticking over until we rebuilt it again. I thought I was unemployable. I did some travelling and took some time off."

Having started out as a small venture in the back of a garden, Karimix is now operating on a global scale, with orders coming in from the Middle East and Africa.

With much of the mainstream market cornered by big players, moving abroad offers an easier route. At present, 30 per cent of orders are export-related.

"I haven't had a chance to call anyone thanking them for seeing us because of all the orders coming in," said Chia.

"Export tends to be a lot easier. I would like to do more retail, maybe get into Ocado next year. I'm thinking of being brave and approaching them.

"I would like to be the leader in new flavour profile. There is a lot coming up."

Another source of optimism is the franchise end of the high street, which she is happily tapping into.

"We do take it to the high street. What seems to be growing most in a recession is franchises – they are the ones to make quicker business relationships.

"When people are made redundant, they use their payout to start one up. I thought this is where my products are going to be. We can create signature tastes for them to sell.

"We are not mainstream, by any means. We are still niche.

"We create things with strong flavours.

"The thing is, if you put our sauces side by side with a Caesar dressing, the Caesar dressing will

Continued on page 43 »

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« Continued from page 41

always out-sell everything else by four times.

"But there is a huge group of people that want to go for something different."

The public face of the company is all about its sauces, pastes, marinades and chutneys, but behind the scenes it is infiltrating the ready-meals world, working with shops and restaurants and adding their flavours to dishes.

"We create a lot of flavours for other brands and retain ownership of the recipes – it's anything from Tex-Mex to South African," said Chia. "What I've realised is that what I have lends itself to working with chefs and creating recipes.

"There are always going to be the easy pour-out-of-the-jar sauces – our concept is completely different to that."







UPHEAVAL: Karmix transferred to its new base in Selling this year but the move came after substantial work, left, to make the interior what it is now, right

Although she is keen to take her business to the next level, Chia is wary of dealing with supermarkets, with previous experiences in mind.

"I worked with supermarkets throughout my time with sushi," she said.

"The best were Safeway – they were brilliant. They were unconventional and believed in being a champion of artisan food.

"I went to Sainsbury's and Tesco and they became very unfair and ruthless, in my opinion.

"My business has never been about profit, to an extent. It's about sharing what we have created, it's never been about money. Money is important because it helps you grow, but the food is the first focus."

Delving into Chia's background, it is easy to see where some of the influences come from. The Asian mix of flavours ranges from Japanese to Malaysian and more.

Growing up in Singapore, she was surrounded by an incredible mix of cultures and food, notably nonya, the term describing a blending of Chinese and Malaysian cuisines in both ingredients and styles.

When she came to boarding school in England, the food on offer did not go down well and so Chia took matters into her own hands.

"I didn't like the food and so learned to cook," said the 53-year-old. "I went to college and cooked and fed people proper meals and I charged them for it.

"When everyone went on holiday, we were left behind because we were all foreign students and I cooked for everybody."

That entrepreneurial spirit was just the start of a business career that saw her working with major supermarkets in setting new ranges of sushi to creating her own brand of rice crackers.

She also worked in the financial sector with KPMG and a Japanese commodity broker. Before that, she had spent time in publishing with Penguin and Collins, proving she is more than just a foodie.

■ **For more information, visit www.karimix.com.**

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Young chefs retain winning recipe



JUNIOR STAR: Ben Colley and the dish that retained his award, below



By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

TWO young chefs will get the chance to spend a week in a professional kitchen after winning a countywide competition.

Eden Allsworth retained her title in the senior category of the Kent Young Chef Award, while Ben Colley again picked up the junior title.

After winning the live final at K College in Tonbridge, judged by celebrity chef Richard Phillips, the pair will get to spend a week at Rowhill Grange in Dartford, where they will help run a kitchen.

They will also join the head chef at The Windmill in Hollingbourne to design a three-course menu for the Kent Young Chef Award charity dinner.

There were eight finalists in total, four in each age group, for the competition run by Produced in Kent.

Highsted Grammar's Eden won the title with her saltmarsh lamb cooked three ways, accompanied by chickpea and butternut squash ragoût and buttered black cabbage.

Ben, a pupil at The Skinners' School in Tunbridge Wells, also held on to his junior title with a venison and bone-marrow burger, triple-cooked chips, burnt onion rings, burger sauce and vanilla milkshake.

Head judge Mr Phillips said: "The judging panel had a difficult job this year and, while we seem to say it every year, the standard really has improved.

"The winning dishes were both remarkable and both Eden and Ben have benefited greatly from the experience of winning last year.

"This definitely showed in their cooking techniques, professionalism in the kitchen and their confidence."

The dishes were also judged by Ian Piper, curriculum director at K College, and Tony Blake, from kff catering supplier.

Mr Blake said: "We had a couple of small disasters, but the youngsters kept their cool and started again."

Ben said: "I am ecstatic I have won this year and am so happy the judges enjoyed my food.

"I had the idea of doing my dish quite a while ago and have been practising and adding elements so it would be perfect on the day.

"I wanted the judges to see that I had extended my range of skills, and this dish allowed me to show lots of different techniques.

"It has given me the confidence to consider entering more competitions."

Senior champion Eden said: "This is the last year I can enter, so I really hoped I could retain my title.

"I have had so many opportunities after winning last year and that has given me the confidence to push myself in the kitchen.

"This year I decided I wanted to cook with ingredients I really love – lamb and chickpeas are among my favourites. I practised the dish at least six times and am really happy how it turned out today."

All finalists received a certificate, a Rubens apples hamper and an invitation from Mr Phillips to spend a day in one of his restaurant kitchens.

■ **The charity dinner, in aid of MIND, takes place on Thursday, January 23, 2014, at The Windmill in Hollingbourne. Tickets are priced at £28 and available from the venue.**





SENIOR: Eden Allsworth receives her award… her winning dish below

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interiors



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Stapleton
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Sweet dreams made of these

Denisova
A delightful cut-glass perfume bottle. The body has a gentle curved silhouette when viewed from the front or back and the top a heart or shield shape.
Price: £32



Who wouldn't want to create a romantic vintage bedroom that is pretty, tranquil and welcoming? From ornate, bejewelled chandeliers and mirrors to statement furniture pieces, here are some items just perfect for transforming your bedroom into a stylish yet nostalgic haven.



Binoche
White Antoinette three-drawer bedside.
Price: £199.50
All pictures
www.chandeliersandmirrors.co.uk

Spoleto
A magnificent bevelled glass over-mantle mirror with an enchanting design.
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EU legislates for foreign job-seeker

ROGER Arnold is right to be concerned about the financial situation of many families and service cutbacks in Kent (Letters 30/11).

I am worried the managers at Medway NHS Foundation Trust, who may be sacked for incompetence, will leave with enhanced redundancy payments – at the taxpayers' expense.

Regarding the immigration point Mr Arnold raised, EU regulations [in the section relating to freedom of movement and social security] allow an unemployed EU person to move to another member state in search of work for up to six months; previously it was just three.

Most importantly, that person must register as a job-seeker and can be entitled to the same social security assistance as was received in their own EU state.

Also, he/she will receive, via the Department for Work and Pensions, that amount, subject to satisfactory documentation, which the UK should reclaim from that other member state. They only come under the UK system when employed.

Housing and medical treatment, apart from A&E, are not included in the entitlement.

So it may appear the EU job-seeker claims benefit, but it is at his own country's rate and expense.

The problem is the UK administrations only look at national and not EU legislation and I speak from experience of the EU legislation.

Ken Scrivner, via email

MEP is peddling the wrong theory

GREEN MEP Keith Taylor re-quotes a report (KoS 24/11) that says cycle accidents reduced by 29 per cent when speed limits are downgraded from 30mph to 20mph.

Can he back this claim up by naming areas where this happened?

Do these claimed reductions carry on through the night when 99 per cent of the population are asleep and the 20mph limit still prevails?

He automatically accepts cyclists can never be at fault for their own injuries (it has to be the driver's) and to justify this nonsense wants all rural speed limits downgraded.

In my nearly 50 years of driving, I have only ever seen speed limits downgraded, so what are we going to achieve by more of the same?

Follow a tractor on a rural road and witness the queues that build up behind it, that is what he and his supporters would like to see.

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Pull the plug on this addiction right now

IT is no surprise the gambling industry tries to reassure us the highly lucrative fixed odds betting terminals in betting shops are not a cause for concern (KoS 24.11).

However, the truth is this kind of instant-payout gambling is extremely addictive, particularly for people who are desperately poor and can least afford to waste their money.

This form of gambling ruins the lives of the addicts, and may also harm other people, as some gamblers will turn to burglary or even violent crime to feed their habit or indeed themselves after they have lost on the machines.

Liverpool City Council is quite right to have banned these terminals and I urge councillors throughout Kent to do the same.

Richard Mountford, Hildenborough

Perhaps the return of the man walking in front with the red flag is some sort of Holy Grail to those opposed to our mobility.

Only inappropriate speed for prevailing conditions causes accidents; sensible speeds allow us to complete our journeys in a time more befitting the 21st century.

Terry Hudson, Whitstable

Horsemeat idea leaves bitter taste

THE surplus of horses (KoS, 24/11), in my opinion, is due to over breeding or indiscriminate breeding.

This is bound to lead to welfare problems. Promoting horsemeat is not the answer and can only make matters worse. As a vegetarian I find the concept abhorrent.

The chief executive of the World Horse Welfare charity apparently believes its president, Princess Anne, is brave to openly state her view. Bravery is in the eye of the beholder, sir.

Horses have been abused over the years by a variety of so-called 'animal lovers'. To suggest horses are now intensively farmed for the food chain is beyond belief.

Mary McNulty, Brenchley

Sunken ship yet another mystery

THANK you for your article about HMS Dasher (KoS 24/11) – it was very interesting and horrific.

We had a similiar incident with my husband's brother. He was on the HMS Duchess when war broke out.

They were ordered back from the China Seas to the UK to accompany HMS Barham.

Having arrived at the Mull of Kintyre, during the night of December 12, 1939, the Barham hit the Duchess and sank it. Out of 160 crew only 23 survived.

My brother-in-law died aged 21.

This was never disclosed either.

Doris Taylor, Margate

Sandys' decision sad day for voters

IT is a great shame Laura Sandys, MP for Thanet South, announced she will stand down at the next election.

She was one of the few MPs who was likeable in Parliament and really cared about her constituents.

Probably because she had a proper job before entering politics – unlike David Cameron.

Rosie Johnston, Ightham

Time to address deprived county

THERE is too much inequality in Kent. For a county in the 'prosperous' south east there are too many districts with high levels of deprivation and poverty.

One dramatic indication of this is the vast variation in life expectancy around the whole county.

The areas now being administered by clinical commissioning groups show life expectancy rates in Thanet, Medway and Swale below the national average. The national rate is just below 81 years, yet in wards like Margate South (72.7), Leysdown and Warden (73.4) and Gillingham North (74.1) the level of low life expectancy is nothing short of shocking.

The impact of deprivation can be seen even more clearly by looking at wards within our districts.

For example, in Dartford life expectancy in Joydens Wood is 8.7 years more than in Bean and Darenth, while in Gravesham there is an 8.3 years difference between Istead Rise and Northfleet North.

Nor are such variations confined to the acknowledged poorer districts with wards such as St James in Tunbridge Wells and Edenbridge in Sevenoaks below national and district rates.

As Labour councillors, we say it is impossible to address the many social challenges involved if central and local government abandon the principle that resources have to follow need, and respond instead to the demands for per capita funding, which means rich areas get more and poor areas less. Health inequalities will continue unless there is determined political action.

Gordon Cowan (Kent), **Vince Maple** (Medway), **Julian Atkins** (Tonbridge & Malling), **John Burden** (Gravesham), **Mike Eddy** (Dover), **Mark Fittock** (Sevenoaks), **Clive Hart** (Thanet), **Mike Haywood** (Swale), **Dianne Hill** (Tun Wells), **Malcolm McKay** (Maidstone) **Geoff Prout** (Dartford) **John Wratten** (Canterbury), **Harriet Yeo** (Ashford)

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: ''We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise.'' This is summed up in the strapline 'Inspiring Communities'.

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles:

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

images of kent



Medway Queen

by **Ivor Dennis**
from Gillingham

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Carry on New Year Parties 2014 at Bosworth Hall Hotel

2 nights half board
+ 99p Bar
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Quote: CO1-KOS

24 Jan, 2014

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INCLUDED:

- 99p bar 6pm to 11pm both evenings for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts
- Enhanced entertainment for 2014 - including cabaret both nights and a New Year Party
- 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & tea/coffee tray

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10 January, 2014

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28 March, 2014



For many people the swinging 60s were the best years of the 20th century. A time of expression, expansion, great music and fashion, freedom and fun. Truly unforgetable! We're inviting you to join us in reliving the 60s with an unforgettable Party at Pontins Pakefield, by the sea at Lowestoft, Suffolk.

INCLUDED:

- 3 free drinks per person per night – house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available
- 3 breakfasts and 3 dinners
- Facilities: Indoor pool

See page 51

Locate in Kent chief executive reveals funding pot of millions



See page 53

How a cycle ride and scarecrow could improve your business...



See page 56

The rise of the apprentice is good news for UK's economy



BusinessQuarter

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Winter edition

'Fertile ground' to start up business, says TV's Polizzi

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

RIGHT now is the perfect time to start up your own company – according to hotelier and TV presenter Alex Polizzi.

The star of programmes such as The Hotel Inspector and The Fixer appeared to defy the gloomy economic outlook saying the current climate provides the ideal opportunity for small start-up businesses to fight for their place in the market.

Speaking to KoS during a recent visit to the county, she said: "In a way I think it's the perfect time.

"When it comes to the tough times, it tends to sort out the businesses that should survive from the ones that should fail.

"If you have a really good concept and you are prepared to work hard, it's a very good time to start-up yourself – it is fertile ground."

Mrs Polizzi, 42, was speaking at a business start-up conference in Ashford, giving advice to entrepreneurs setting up their own businesses.

With a rich heritage of hoteliers, her grandfather was Lord Forte, while her mother is hotel designer Olga Polizzi and sister of Sir Rocco Forte.

She has subsequently made a name for herself after she and her husband, Marcus Miller, launched a wholesale bakery, supplying bread to the likes of Selfridges, Harvey Nichols and Fortnum & Mason.

The expert also manages the Hotel Endsleigh in Milton Abbot, Devon, owned by her mother.

But it was helping give a hand up to the next generation of entrepreneurs which brought her down to the Vistaprint Night School event recently.

There, she warned those gathered of the 'seven deadly sins' of owning a small business before talking one-to-one with aspiring entrepreneurs.

'You've got to be willing to admit when you've made a mistake'

The major things to avoid are pride, vanity, profligacy, complacency, inflexibility, ignorance and laziness.

She said: "These are things I have found, tried and tested and you need to steer clear of. I feel very comfortable giving tips to anybody working in any business because each of them is true of every sector."

Mrs Polizzi explained that most of the sins were simple mistakes, which when eradicated can help people find the right path in business.

She said: "Pride: you've got to be willing to admit when you have made a mistake.

"No-one always makes a good call, but the important thing is to know when to cut your losses. If you don't do that you normally end up throwing good money after bad.

"Vanity: that can be believing you are good at doing something even when all the evidence points to the contrary.

"If you are not making money after two years of trading, losing money hand over fist, the odds are you are not very good at what you are doing and you should stop doing it."

Having trained at the five-star Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Hong Kong, and worked under famous chef and business mogul Marco Pierre White, Mrs Polizzi is well placed to give advice on growing your business from scratch.

She added: "Marketing is the one thing that you must never, ever fall behind on.

"From your website to your business cards, brochures or loyalty cards, you have got to make sure you have a coherent and strong marketing strategy so your name and your

Continued on page 51 »



WORDS OF WISDOM: TV personality Alex Polizzi advised budding entrepreneurs

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Businesses keen to maintain a competitive edge this Christmas are urged to take advantage of the products provided by Business Services at MidKent College.

From bespoke training and apprenticeships to the College's very own Microsoft Academy and JobShop, MKC Business Services can help improve a firm from top to bottom.

And with 2014 predicted to experience continued economic growth following a lengthy period of decline, there's never been a better time for employers to ensure they stay ahead of the pack.

Based at the College's new higher education centre at its Maidstone Campus, MKC Business Services consists of a team of education and training experts with years of experience in the field.

The first of four key services offered by Business Services is its wide range of bespoke training packages, offering professional qualifications in a variety of courses including training and leadership, health and safety and lots more.

Business Services manager Jacqui Brown said: "Training can be delivered during the working day, twilight evenings or weekends to address your needs and fit in with your schedules.

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"We'll also align training to match your business culture and values."

Firms keen to keep up with the pace of technology can take advantage of the Microsoft Academy, which offers fully-accredited technical and Office programs from a dedicated IT suite at the College's Medway Campus.

Service number three is the JobShop, which provides recruitment solutions by advertising job vacancies to existing students for free. Only students who fulfil certain criteria are notified of the vacancies, ensuring only the most appropriate candidates are put forward for application.

Finally, Business Services is also responsible for more than 20 apprenticeship programmes at the College, giving employers the support they need to train the skilled workforce of the future.



Apprenticeships are offered in a wide range of subject areas including Customer Service, Hairdressing, Plumbing, Vehicle Fitting and lots more. The College also offers the Higher Apprenticeship in Accounting.

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Interest-free funding available if you know the right place to look

Paul Wookey, chief executive of Locate in Kent, the county's investment promotion agency, explains how businesses in the county can tap into millions of pounds worth of funding.

SECURING finance for your business remains a challenge despite the improving economic climate.

Pressure from government on the high street banks designed to ensure the effects of the Bank of England's quantitative easing programme filtered down to businesses has achieved mixed results, depending on which side of the story you listen to.

Finding large-scale private backers willing to invest is equally challenging, as those with the funds to help are looking for the best return for minimal risk.

One emerging source of finance is crowdfunding, where companies can secure contributions from online investors, sponsors or donors to fund business growth.

However, in parts of Kent and Medway there is another alternative – a near £60 million pot of Regional Growth Fund finance, managed by Kent County Council, available now and already helping businesses to grow the local economy.

The funds are not only for companies looking to relocate to Kent, but also for businesses within the local authority areas covered that have specific investment projects that will help create or secure jobs.

Expansion East Kent has £35m available in the form of zero per cent interest-free loans to sole traders, partnerships, limited companies or not-for-profit businesses in the Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Thanet local authority areas.



A HELPING HAND: Paul Wookey

To be eligible, companies must use the support from the fund to create or safeguard jobs and be able to provide an element of private sector investment.

The scheme will fund tangible assets, such as land, buildings, machinery and equipment, and intangible assets such as the transfer of technology or knowledge from third parties.

In north Kent, Thames Gateway Innovation, Growth and Enterprise (Tiger) has £20m to invest in the form of capital investment loans, young innovative enterprise loans, innovation and development loans or innovation centres loans.

It is open to businesses in Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Swale that have match-funding available, are creating or safeguarding jobs, can show their proposal will have a positive impact on the north Kent area and they can repay the loan within five to seven years.

The application and assessment process for both schemes is thorough and in itself gives companies an opportunity to review and update their business plans, and to take a step back and reassess targets and performance to date.

There are three stages: A pre-application, a full application along with a comprehensive business plan, and an assessment by an independent panel of business experts.

There are smaller funds also, such as the Marsh Million, which offers zero per cent loans to small and micro businesses and start-ups on Romney Marsh, and Escalate, which opens in December and is for companies in Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge & Malling and part of Sussex.

More than £25m has already been allocated to about 70 businesses from just about every business sector – life sciences, IT, business support, manufacturing and more – but money is there and waiting for dynamic, growing businesses to invest in Kent.

« Continued from page 55

product stay in people's minds."

The hotelier, who is currently filming a new series of The Hotel Inspector for Channel 5 early next year, told those gathered not to be disheartened if their business doesn't start as quickly as they expected and to be patient as the economy picks up.

She said: "It's important you can get some backing and some mentoring, because nobody knows everything when they start a new business; we all have to learn at some stage."

A new series of The Fixer, for BBC2, will also start in January where Mrs Polizzi investigates failing family businesses in an attempt to turn them around.

She knows from experience that even working with family, there can be difficulties.

"Working with family is hard," she explained. "I've worked for my uncle, with my mother and I currently have a business with my husband – and none of them have been easy.

"But I do think that if you have differing skill sets complementary of each other, and if you really trust your family business partners as I do, it can be an incredibly rewarding experience."

POLIZZI'S SEVEN DEADLY SINS...

1. **Pride** – if you make a mistake, be sure you acknowledge it, learn from it and then move on.
2. **Vanity** – make sure you are making money and not just doing what you think is right even if it's making a loss.
3. **Profligacy** – make sure you don't spend recklessly, prioritise buying items that will make you money. Keep the bank onside.
4. **Complacency** – keep up to date with current trends relating to your business and stay relevant for your customers
5. **Inflexibility** – work as the customers need you to. They must always be a priority.
6. **Laziness** – do not just wait for business to come to you. Have a strong, coherent marketing campaign.
7. **Ignorance** – problems don't just disappear, they get worse so don't ignore them – deal with them and move on.

Business **Briefs**

Port educating for the future

THE Port of Dover is launching a brand new bursary scheme to encourage students into a future at the busiest port in Europe.

The scheme, for 16 to 24-year-olds, encourages local students to study port-related courses at university including economics and business management, civil engineering, marine technology and marine engineering.

Students within the postcodes CT14 to CT17, entering full-time education in September 2014 and studying a relevant degree are eligible. The port will also provide work experience as well as paid placements during and following the period of their study.

Applications should be sent to Anita Wilson, Dover Harbour Board, Harbour House, Marine Parade, Dover, CT17 9BU by 5pm on Friday, January 10, 2014.

Sign-maker's new wheels of efficiency

ONE of the UK's largest sign manufacturing companies has upgraded its vehicle fleet after securing funding from Lloyds Bank Commercial Finance.

Broadstairs-based Blaze Neon, which operates a fleet of 42 vehicles, has purchased 21 new Mercedes Sprinter vans to replace older models, a move that will deliver cost and environmental benefits due to the greater fuel efficiency provided by the new vehicles.

Established in 1981, it has made signs for companies including Sainsbury's, Halifax, Co-op Marks & Spencer and Tesco.

Blaze Neon, which employs more than 300 staff and has a turnover of £28 million, boasts 130,000 sq ft of production facilities at its head office.

Ecotech team go on mission to Colorado

AN eco-technology company from Faversham has been chosen to attend the Clean and Cool Mission to Colorado, USA, to showcase its innovations and explore business opportunities associated with tackling climate change.

The Brogdale-based group will attend a week-long event alongside 15 other UK companies to learn from key leaders in the field and meet with potential investors. It will form part of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) Industry Growth Forum.

As the number one U.S market for renewable energy, the 'Mission to Colorado' will enable participants to learn first-hand how to accelerate their business in the important U.S market.

Plumbing boss to raise profile

A WELL-KNOWN plumbing suppliers has appointed a new managing director to head-up seven branches across Kent.

Drakes Plumbing Supplies has taken on Andy Clark, who has previously worked with various companies across London, North America, Hong Kong and the Middle East, to raise its profile.

The Yalding resident will be based in Drakes' head office in Tunbridge Wells.

He said: "I am excited about the challenge of joining Drakes.

"I have a lot of experience of working with teams of sales and service orientated staff and the customer service ethos prevalent at Drakes appealed to me.

"I look forward to helping the company improve on the good service that it already enjoys a strong reputation for."

£1.4m refurb at coastal hotel

SHEPHERD Neame will spend £1.4 million redeveloping a hotel at one of the most picturesque spots on the Kent coast.

The Fayreness Hotel – regularly used as a film location – overlooks Botany Bay at Kingsgate, and will be renamed the Botany Bay Hotel.

Work started in the autumn with a refurbishment of its 30 bedrooms before the venue closes for 10 weeks from January to Easter.

Two UPVC conservatories will be replaced by an orangery and exteriors will be clad in traditional Kentish weatherboarding.

Retail director Nigel Bunting said: "Botany Bay is probably the finest beach in Kent and a stunning location, so it makes sense to rename and redevelop the hotel for the many who use it."

For more business news visit **www.businessforkent.co.uk**
» If you have a business story email us at **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk**

MHA MacIntyre Hudson - National Firm of the Year 2013

The British Accountancy AWARDS 2013 WINNER

MHA MacIntyre Hudson is a growing and successful top 20 accountancy firm working with entrepreneurial businesses, groups and multinationals with operations in the UK.

MHA MacIntyre Hudson have been awarded National Firm of the Year at The British Accountancy Awards 2013.

Rakesh Shaunak, MHA MacIntyre Hudson's Chairman, says:

"We are delighted to have been awarded National Firm of the Year. It is recognition of our strategy and continued growth by our peers. Everybody at the firm worked really hard to achieve this and I am really proud of the business we have built"

Now in their third year, The British Accountancy Awards took place on 20 November. The Awards attract more than 500 guests from practices all over the country including small local firms to larger regional, national and global players. Their criteria have been designed to recognise firms that have demonstrated excellence in their profession during the last 12 months.

The judges were impressed by MHA MacIntyre Hudson's desire to increase the quality of its client base, while investing in the business. Its strong Corporate Social Responsibility policy was also noted.

James Gransby, Partner at the Maidstone office, says:

"I was delighted to see the news of the award. To be part of a nationally recognised firm is very inspiring. Our staff are relishing the challenges and opportunities presented to them"

About MHA MacIntyre Hudson

Following a merger in July 2013, MHA MacIntyre Hudson is in a strong position to help local Kent businesses via the Maidstone and Canterbury offices.

We provide a wide range of services to our local community as follows:

Our services
- Advice and planning
- Audit and assurance
- Business strategy
- Corporate finance
- Restructuring and recovery
- Financial training
- HR solutions
- Outsourcing
- Tax planning
- Wealth management

Our sectors
- Agriculture and rural business
- Healthcare
- Leisure and hospitality
- Legal
- Manufacturing and engineering
- Media and entertainment
- Not for profit (charities and schools)
- Property and construction
- Technology
- Transport and logistics
- Travel and tourism

We are ranked in the Top 20 with 75 Partners and over 500 staff, our approach is always personal and in a changing world, our support is constant thus enabling our clients to achieve their goals. From the challenges of a growing business, to the complexities of incorporation and flotation, through compliance, taxation, acquisition or sale, MHA MacIntyre Hudson will help you take the initiative. Our priority is to protect your interests, individually as well as in business; to make sure you get the best out of the world you create.

Contact details



James Gransby
Specialisms: SME's, healthcare and not for profit
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E: james.gransby@mhllp.co.uk T: 01622 754 033



Jennifer Sherwood
Specialisms: Owner managed businesses, charities and not for profit membership organisations.
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For further information, and an initial free no obligation meeting, please contact your local office.

www.macintyrehudson.co.uk/offices

MHA MacIntyre Hudson
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, TAX AND BUSINESS ADVISERS

Help balance

Kent's budget

Kent County Council has to save £273million over the next three years.

2 mins

Take **two minutes** – answer **two questions**

Consultation ends 12midday, 13 December 2013

Help to inform how we face this challenge:

kent.gov.uk/budget

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

Bolt Burdon Kemp

BABIES BORN WITH GASTROSCHISIS & OTHER FOETAL ABNORMALITIES IN NORTH KENT

Gastroschisis is a condition that occurs when a baby suffers an abnormality during foetal development in which the abdominal wall of the foetus does not form completely, and normal development is disrupted, resulting in the baby being born with some or all of its abdominal organs on the outside of its body.

Bolt Burdon Kemp solicitors are representing a number of children from the Northfleet and Gravesend area in Kent, who have suffered foetal abnormalities, including gastroschisis and kidney defects. The mothers of those children believe that environmental contamination caused their babies' birth defects.

As a leading personal injury firm with years of experience, we understand the needs of our clients and the importance of a proactive approach. We are committed to providing our clients with the support they need, whilst also ensuring that claims are progressed swiftly and without delay.

Marilene Antoni, a Partner at Bolt Burdon Kemp, is managing these cases. Marilene specialises in complex personal injury claims. If you or a loved one has suffered similar health problems and you would like to find out more about the services we offer, please contact Marilene, in confidence, on 020 7288 4836 or email her at marileneantoni@boltburdonkemp.co.uk.

The Legal 500 LEADING FIRM 2013

RANKED IN CHAMBERS UK 2013

A sense of routine can have damaging effect

Bev James warns against the pitfalls of complacency and how the tried and tested could prove bad for your business

WHEN I want to unwind there is nothing I enjoy more than getting my bike out and going for long rides in the countryside around my home.

As well as keeping me fit, I find regular exercise in the open air is a great way to clear my mind.

Being away from mobile phones and the internet also gives me a chance to let my mind wander, so it is no coincidence I come up with new ideas and solutions to problems while I'm out on the road.

Recently, while on a cycling expedition, I came across a scarecrow in a field, which happened to have a crow perched on its head.

I smiled to myself first and then this sighting set off a train of thought around the nature of change and how to deal with problems as and when they arise.

Obviously, a farmer had taken the time and effort to make a scarecrow and then put it in his field for a very good reason – to keep the birds away from his crops.

However, the fact a crow was quite happy to use the scarecrow as a perch was a sure sign this tried and tested measure of keeping pests at bay was no longer having the desired effect.

This made me think about how businesses deal with change and how sticking with the same routines and methods can fool people into a false sense of security.

It is an easy trap to fall into, but I have lost count of the number of times I have seen companies making the same mistake over and over again.

So many of us like routine and feel more comfortable with the familiar, but in business sticking with the tried and tested can sometimes lead to failure.

When businesses are first set up, systems are devised to carry out certain functions, but often things are left unchanged as the firm develops and evolves.

If you ask an individual employee why they are doing something in a certain way, they will usually tell you it is because they have always done it that way.

It can often take someone from outside an organisation to point out obvious faults or mistakes.

If a company is rigid and sticks to the same routines and methods, it runs the risk of repeating failures again and again.

Of course, systems are put in place for a reason, and if something is not broken then there is no point in trying to fix it.

However, if something is not working properly or is no longer a necessary part of the business, there is no point sticking with tradition for tradition's sake.

I would at this point urge caution when it comes to imposing whole-scale change in an attempt to try and fix an ailing business; it could be a product is no longer popular with customers or a rival has come up with a cheaper or better option.

When a difficult situation arises, there can be a temptation to throw the kitchen sink at the problem and try to change everything in one go.

In my experience this kind of shock and awe approach can be just as dangerous and damaging as blindly sticking with tradition.

If you think of a business in terms of an engine, the organisation is operating at its best when all the key components are working together.

If one part of a business ceases to function properly it makes no sense to scrap the whole engine; it is far more practical to fix or replace the misfiring component.

That is why if there is a problem that needs fixing it is much better to take a methodical approach.

Take a look at the processes within a business one step at a time rather than introducing a whole host of changes. If you work your way through each part logically and methodically then sooner or later you will find your own version of the scarecrow – one that actually works.



Bev James is a successful serial entrepreneur with more than 20 years' experience in coaching, training, recruitment and health & fitness. She is managing director and head of training for the Coaching Academy and the Entrepreneurs' Business Academy. See www.bevjames.com.

Boost for education centre's popularity

A FORMER police training centre is fast becoming one of the best educational activity centres in Europe after it received a cash injection from its parent company.

Grosvenor Hall, in Kennington, Ashford, underwent a multimillion-pound upgrade before being opened to schools and colleges as an educational facility in 2010.

Now, Kingswood, which runs the site, providing residential trips across Kent, will invest £16 million across its outdoor education and adventure centres, including Grosvenor Hall.

The 19th century building was the main facility for new recruits from police forces across the south east from 1973 until its closure in 2006.

Kingswood says the cash injection will allow it to enhance activity equipment and rejuvenate teacher and student accommodation.

John Bentley, chief executive officer of Education Travel Group, which owns Kingswood, said: "The four-year investment will help us expand the range of activities we offer, and enhance our facilities across all of the centres.



PLAY GROUNDS: Grosvenor Hall is one of the best education centres in Europe

"It's vital the students and teachers who visit any of our centres have a fantastic experience and learn a lot, and spending millions over the next four years to add to our facilities will ensure they do that.

"We want to give both new and returning guests an enjoyable and exciting stay and provide them with the best possible facilities."

One of nine UK centres, the Ashford site houses 50 acres of land and includes facilities for abseiling, climbing, laser games, orienteering as well as zip lines.

KMI

Business **Briefs**

There's a new law firm in town

A MEDWAY solicitors has shut down after 35 years, replaced by another law firm looking to serve Rainham and Sittingbourne.

John Morley & Co and Lowes Solicitors has been forced to close following "unmanageable financial pressure" with Fosters Law stepping in to take over the leases of the high street properties as well as employing a number of former staff.

Ed Foster, senior partner of Fosters Law, said: "I am aware the former teams provided an excellent service to the local community for many years and although this is a new business with a new name above the doors, this is something that we hope to build upon.

"We will continue to provide legal support for the people of Rainham and Sittingbourne."

Prize fund for low-carbon SME ideas

TIME is running out for innovative low-carbon SMEs to grab a slice of a £330,000 fund.

SMEs with viable low-carbon business ideas have until December 13 to apply for the Shell Springboard prize money.

Since 2005, the programme has awarded £2.5 million to 71 SMEs on a no strings attached basis, helping companies make their innovations a reality.

Ed Daniels from Shell UK said: "Shell is committed to the twin challenge of reducing carbon emissions while meeting the growing global population's rising demand for energy.

"Since 2008, we have invested $2.2 billion in developing alternative energies, carbon capture and storage, and other CO2 related research and development."

Eco-friendly invitation to breakfast

BUSINESSES interested in sustainable building are invited to visit Chandlers Building Supplies on Tuesday, December 10, for a breakfast meeting with representatives from economic materials group Porotherm.

Natural clay Porotherm products are said to provide a "thermal efficient living environment" by evening out temperatures, protecting against the cold and reducing energy costs.

John Rose, from Chandlers Thanet, said: "As more customers are looking for energy efficient and sustainable products, we wanted to invite people to speak to an expert about how Porotherm blocks can provide one solution.

"Those attending will be able to enjoy a free breakfast roll and hot drink."

Awards triple for DFDS ferries

DOVER ferry company DFDS Seaways has been awarded the 'World's Leading Ferry Operator' gong at the 2013 World Travel Awards for the third year in a row.

Hailed as the premier titles in the travel and tourism industry, the World Travel Awards celebrate excellence throughout the global travel, tourism and hospitality sector. The winners are decided by travel industry professionals and consumers.

Passenger director for DFDS Seaways Max Foster said: "This is a fantastic endorsement of the excellent service and standards we strive to deliver to our loyal customer base.

"This prestigious award is testament to the hard work and commitment of our staff, who work tirelessly to provide the very best travel experience."

Pair to provide crisis advice

A NEW specialist firm offering insolvency and restructuring advice to businesses has launched offices in Maidstone.

RNF Business Advisory will be led by female duo Ruth Duncan and Filippa Connor, both of whom have more than 20 years of experience in providing business recovery, restructuring and insolvency services.

The launch comes as demand for insolvency advice increases with firms feeling the pressure of the ongoing financial crisis.

Ms Connor said: "Whether business owners, sole traders or individuals – suffering from financial difficulties can prove exceptionally difficult. Many people often don't understand the true extent of their problems and the possible consequences of not seeking advice."

For more business news visit **www.businessforkent.co.uk**
» If you have a business story email us at **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk**

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School Direct is the new way of training teachers that puts schools at the heart of the process.

It is an employment-based route into teaching for high quality graduates.

Trainees will work as unqualified teachers in one of the schools within our Trust.

Swale Academies Trust works in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU).

We have a long history of teacher training within the Trust and have developed a rigorous and robust training programme. This consists of a combination of practical and theoretical elements delivered by a dedicated team at the Trust Training Centre.

We recognise that trainees come with varying levels of previous school experience and our training is therefore tailored to the individual. Those who have plenty of relevant classroom experience have the opportunity to begin teaching whole classes early on in the programme. Those with less relevant experience will receive more guidance in the beginning, to build a firm foundation on which to base their classroom practice.

Information about Swale Academies Trust, School Direct, the training provider and course content, are available on our website www.swaleacademiestrust.org.uk

Westlands School, Sittingbourne Community College, Meopham School, Westlands Primary School and Regis Manor Primary School

School Direct Teacher Training for the 2014/15 academic year

Swale Academies Trust, working in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University, invites high quality graduates interested in a career in teaching to consider the School Direct Training Programme 2014/15. We have places available under both School Direct training routes, some salaried and some which may be eligible for a training bursary or scholarship, subject to status.

Please visit our website
www.swaleacademiestrust.org.uk

Swale Academies Trust has an excellent reputation for high quality teacher training within a friendly and supportive environment. This is an excellent opportunity to acquire practical teaching experience under the guidance of highly skilled and dedicated professionals. Westlands School, the lead training school, is an outstanding school as recognised by Ofsted.

Professional help is given to successful applicants to enable them to begin teaching classes at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

Information about the training provider and course content, are available on our website

For preliminary enquiries you are welcome to contact the Staff Development Leader, Miss Elizabeth Frost, by e mail: schooldirect@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Only applications made through UCAS Teacher Training, www.ucas.com/teacher-training will be accepted.

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All staff are subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Contact Details

schooldirect@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732
Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

Canterbury Christ Church University

If you would like to advertise in the next edition of **BusinessQuarter** please contact **Sallie Payne** on **01303 817056** or email **sallie.payne@archant.co.uk**

You're in safe hands when using Right Guard Security

TRADING for more than 20 years, Right Guard Security has become synonymous with making sure your event or premises are in safe hands.

Based in Canterbury, it provides many services including crowd management, licensed trade security, guarding solutions, close protection and traffic management to the public, businesses and events around the UK.

Events it has worked include the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

It insists on the highest quality personnel and takes pride in providing highly trained and experienced door supervisors, security guards, close-protection operatives and crowd management stewards wherever, and whenever, they are needed – even at short notice.

It says its primary role is health and safety and customer care to both client and security staff.

It is ACS accredited by the Security Industry Authority and has ISO9001 certification.

Sister company, Mission Training and Consultancy Ltd, delivers a variety of courses ranging from first aid, fire health and safety, conflict management and security training



which meet demands of new and existing legislation, including the Security Industry Authority (SIA) and the Licensing Act 2003.

It means individuals employed in various industries can attend a range of programmes that will prepare them for future development and a job in the sector.

It also offers a variety of courses aimed at educating security staff before they embark on a career in the security, leisure and licensed and entertainment sectors. Refresher courses on all of the above are available too.

See www.rightguard.co.uk and www.missiontraining.co.uk.

Networking sessions offer companies a place to grow

A NETWORKING event has been launched to great reception at offices in Kings Hill – spearheaded by CapitalSpace, a company which provides office space for start-ups and growing businesses.

It operates the popular Churchill Square complex and saw more than 150 of its customers attend an early morning, informal breakfast networking session at the site.

Those in attendance at the business centre, which has a mix of large and small offices to hire on a licenced basis, heard a host of inspiring presentations – with plenty more planned for the future.

Working in close association with various organisations such as GrowthAccelerator – a partnership between private sector business growth experts and backed by the Government – CapitalSpace is speaking to customers to determine the most popular issues.

It will then unveil plans for 2014.

One such event took place on Wednesday.

Organised with High Growth Kent, which offers guidance, coaching and mentoring, the 'funding for business' event saw valuable conversations on the key topics impacting on businesses going for growth.

It was led by Alex Ledger, an approved Growth Accelerator coach, representing High Growth Kent.

He led discussions and carefully navigated through the options for west Kent businesses to tap into the financial support available.

Amanda Robinson, manging director of DotImpact, a marketing firm based at Churchill Square, said: "Events like this are a worthwhile get together. This first presentation on funding options was a great idea as it's a topic close to most business owners' hearts."

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Training, courses & careers

Apprenticeships are on the rise as latest figures reveal spike

THE number of apprenticeships across the UK is soaring, according to the latest figures.

Government data revealed nearly 870,000 people were taking part in an apprenticeship in 2012/13, with the gold standard of higher and advanced levels attracting record levels.

The data indicates there were over 1.5 million apprenticeship starts since 2010, half a million of these were in 2012/13.

Skills and enterprise minister Matthew Hancock said: ''These figures show that a record 868,700 people were in apprenticeships last year, which is up 77 per cent on 2009/10. I am also pleased to see that there were 13,000 people in higher apprenticeships last year, which is double the previous year's figure.

''This is good news for the economy, and good news for those getting the skills they need to prosper.

''I want the new norm for people leaving school or college to either go to university or choose an apprenticeship. By focusing on the quality and rigour that people and employers want from apprenticeships, this will make the vision a reality. ''

Higher apprenticeships introduced by this Government are now at the highest level they have ever been, while the participation in advanced level apprenticeships has increased by 19 per cent this year to nearly 380,000.

To continue the work already being done to focus on the responsiveness of the system, reforms were announced in October.

The reformed apprenticeships will be employer-led and designed so they respond to the needs of industry, meaning each apprentice has the skills required by the sector. They will also focus on quality so the apprentice has to demonstrate their ability through rigorous assessment at the end of their apprenticeship.

Each apprenticeship will then be graded on completion – pass, merit, or distinction.



MOVING ON UP: Apprenticeships are rocketing in popularity

Firms prefer to hire from within

MORE than two-thirds of employers want to recruit talent from within their organisation when looking to fill key management roles.

In a survey conducted by Investors in People South, 68 per cent of business people said they look at promoting existing members of staff before going to external sources such as a recruitment agency.

However, 36 per cent of respondents did not have a talent management programme in place to nurture talent.

Young volunteers in sports scheme

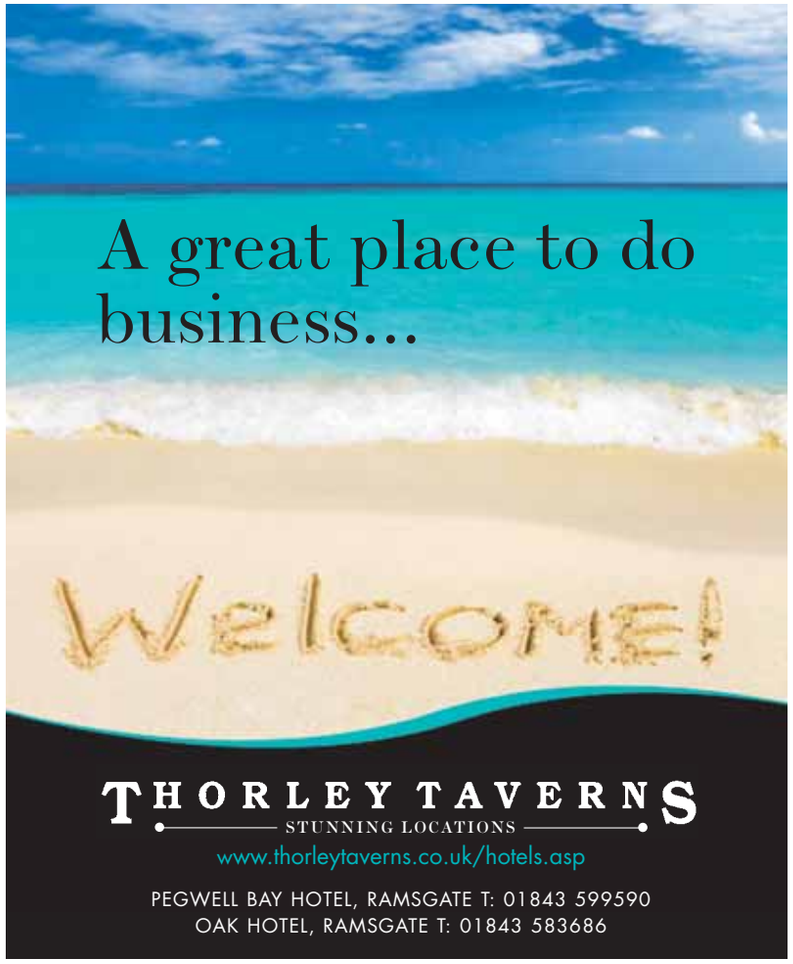
MORE than 150 MidKent College students have completed at least 10 hours of voluntary coaching as part of the national Sport Makers initiative.

It aimed to give students experience in the industry.

Sport lecturer Mark Lampard said: ''There's no substitute for real-life work experience and hopefully they will be inspired.''

» What is your business doing to help our young people? If you have a good-news story, email **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **01303 817100**.





Research & Development tax relief - The SME Scheme: Are you missing out?

The majority of Small and Medium-size enterprises (SMEs) are missing out on making claims under the R&D tax legislation.

According to HMRC's estimates there should be approximately 50,000 SMEs qualifying for R&D Tax Relief. Indeed this figure could be as high as 150,000 qualifying companies according to some HMRC sources.

By contrast the latest available Research & Development Tax Credits Statistics as published in August 2012 show that in 2010/11 only 8,170 claims were made.

So why is the take up so low? There is a misconception that the scheme is complex, that it only relates to pure research facilities and that only scientific based companies can claim. In fact this is far from the reality of the situation. Innovation, extension of technical or scientific research and technical problem solving occurs throughout many Industries.

As such there is a high chance that if an SME is undertaking innovation or solving technical problems in any Industry type there could be an R&D Tax Credit Claim to be made. The relief is granted on a project by project basis and in order to qualify a project must 'seek an advance in science or technology through the resolution of scientific or technological uncertainty'. A word of caution is needed here as it should be noted that the mere increase in an SMEs own knowledge base will not necessarily qualify unless it also satisfies the stated criteria.

Where a project does qualify for relief, a company can claim an additional tax deduction of 125% of qualifying expenditure where costs have been incurred on or after 1 April 2012. A qualifying spend of £100,000 could, after the enhancement, give rise to a total of £225,000 claimed against taxable profits in the company's Corporation Tax computation. This can then lead to a reduction in tax payable, or should a company be loss making and a going concern, it is possible to make the claim for R&D Tax Credits and surrender the losses generated for cash.

For R&D Tax Credit purposes an SME is defined as an entity having fewer than 500 employees and either an annual turnover not exceeding 100 million or a balance sheet not exceeding 86 million.

Other extracts from HMRC's statistics also make for interesting reading particularly with regard to the location of where the SMEs making the claims are located. By volume some 3,855 claims were made by SMEs in the areas classified as East of England, London and the South East which represents some 47% of the total claims for 2010/11. By value these claims total £206 million which is 60% of the total value claimed for 2010/11. This clearly demonstrates that qualifying activity is being undertaken in the South East, London and Eastern regions and at considerable levels.

It is essential that SMEs take advantage of the R&D tax relief rules if they are not already doing so, but to do that companies must be properly informed about the scheme and you should use a specialist in the field to properly advise you.

Rick Schofield
Tax Partner
Ashford
T:01233 629255
E:rick.schofield@wilkinskennedy.com







SIGN HERE: Buying or selling your home comes with a certain amount of risk so it's worth being aware of what costs may be incurred

Understanding cost of the deal makers and breakers

Solicitor **Edward Foster** tackles both a positive and a negative aspect of the home-buying process – the troublesome issue of collapsed transactions and, more happily, paying the deposit

With broken chains, gazumping and gazundering on the increase, what will I be charged if my transaction falls through?

BUYING or selling property comes with risk, including the possibility that the conveyancing transaction can fall through due to factors beyond your control.

Unfortunately, when this happens, more often than not costs relating to this will have already been incurred.

If this happens, most solicitors will charge a reasonable proportion of their fee relating to the amount of work they have undertaken, plus any expenses or disbursements that have been incurred at that time.

I can only speak for Fosters Law, but we would certainly look to do this. Therefore the cost to you is dependent on what stage the transaction had reached.

Alternatively, we also offer a Fair Deal Conveyancing scheme, where we are able to guarantee that, if your sale doesn't proceed for reasons outside your control, you won't face the expense of our fees for dealing with your abortive transaction – you will only have to pay for the disbursements we have paid out on your behalf, such as search fees.

This way you can minimise the costs associated with the risk.

It is always best to clarify with your solicitor at the outset what their policy is on abortive transactions.

This information should also be included in their terms and conditions, remembering to pay attention to the division and payment of fees and disbursements.

What do we have to pay as deposit?

DISCUSSION of deposits can cause confusion, as during a conveyancing transaction there are effectively two types of 'deposit' that people refer to.

More commonly, when people refer to the deposit they are using to buy a house, they are referring to the sum that is the difference between the amount being borrowed from their mortgage-lender and the actual purchase price of the property.

However, when a solicitor refers to the deposit, they mean something very specific, namely the sum the buyer pays as a down payment on the property when contracts are exchanged. The balance of the purchase price for the property is then paid on the completion date.

In theory the deposit should be 10 per cent of the purchase price; however, the amount actually paid will depend on the transaction type and the amount that is being borrowed: for example, with a 95 per cent mortgage it is sometimes possible to pay only a 5 per cent deposit at exchange of contracts.

The actual amount payable will be negotiated by your solicitor.

Also, in chains of transactions, the deposit tends to be passed up the chain, so effectively the buyer at the very bottom of the chain physically pays a deposit based on his or her purchase price, and then this money is used as a deposit by all other parties in the chain.

If you are purchasing a property, your solicitor will request the deposit when they send all the contract paperwork to you for signing.

When both parties have signed and 'exchanged' their respective contracts, your solicitor will pass the deposit over to the seller's solicitor.

They then keep the deposit until the completion date and this is then offset against the purchase price. You can pay your deposit by cheque, electronic bank transfer or bank draft.

However, you should note that if you pay by cheque or even bank draft, your solicitor will have to wait for your money to clear through the bank account, delaying the exchange by up to five working days.



Edward Foster is senior partner at FostersLaw.
If you have a question relating to this or any other matter, simply 'Ask Ed' by emailing him at **asked@fosters-law.co.uk**

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By Steve Loader
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LITTLE GEM: Hyundai claims to have adapted its revamped i10 even more to British and European tastes



Hyundai's new baby due

Preview

Hyundai i10

Price:	**from £8,345**
Driving appeal:	Yet to be tested
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	**Skoda Citigo**

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THEY must believe in 'small is beautiful' at Hyundai UK because the marque's i10 city car has been and will be a pivotal model for the company.

In 2008, riding the chill wind of recession, there arrived a five-door 'does what it says on the tin' baby car perfectly suited to a new era of sobriety and more sensible spending.

We welcome a radically different and more grown-up second-generation i10 at the end of January – a car more attuned to Britain's growing optimism yet still with the value and economic efficiency of its predecessor.

The original's timing was more perfect than anyone could have foreseen in the company's Korean homeland because the UK had also embarked on a controversial scrappage scheme offering a £2,000 grant – half from the Government/half from manufacturers – to anyone trading in their 10-year-old gas-guzzler for a new motor.

The economical yet spacious i10 was literally right on the money and backed by Hyundai's five-year/unlimited-mileage warranty – no wonder the UK took a third of all European i10 sales.

Helped by scrappage deals on other impressive new-generation Hyundai 'i' models, the brand suddenly became a major UK player and was able to overhaul and expand its dealer network – there could be no going back.

And there won't be with this new i10. It's more in keeping with Hyundai's new assurance, which has taken over from the 'budget brand' label, and it's still affordable (from £8,345).

The old i10's Noddy car-styling has also given way to a more sophisticated profile that is a credit to the design team; fitting a stylish car body around four to five people plus engine and boot gets harder as the car gets smaller and, necessarily, taller.

Hyundai claims to have adapted the new car even more to British and European tastes – the original car belied its awkward looks by being good fun to drive. Ride and handling have been further tweaked and tuned during an arduous European testing programme including the Arctic wastes of Sweden and the summer heat of southern Europe.

Built on an all-new platform, it has a longer wheelbase than before, highlighted by class-leading legroom and a relatively huge cabin, yet it is also lower in profile – qualities adding further to the car's on-road ride and handling.

Two petrol engines will be offered: one is a 66PS (65bhp) 1.0-litre three-cylinder with better low-end output than the previous car and offering a modest 0-62mph in 14.9 seconds.

However, Hyundai expects 60 per cent of buyers to opt for the livelier 87PS (86bhp) 1.2-litre four-cylinder unit (from £9,795), allowing 0-62mph in 12.3 seconds.

Hyundai says it has worked particularly hard on the i10's refinement or NVH (noise, vibration and harshness) – always more challenging in smaller cars – so 29.2 per cent of the body structure is high-tensile steel, against just 9 per cent in the previous model.

There has also been detailed sound-deadening work such as large hydraulic engine mountings and a triple-layer sound-deadening dashboard bulkhead, the sort of measures found in larger and more upmarket cars and likely to be absent from sector rivals.

Hyundai also claims best-in-class luggage capacity for an A-segment or city car – luggage capacity is also up 10 per cent to 252 litres with the seats up, compared with the first-generation car.

Other **view…**

the Petrolhead
It's still a Noddy car, albeit a slightly better-looking one, so I suppose that does offer some hope of a sporting version.

the Woman Driver
People are still snobbish about the Hyundai name and badge, but I can see why the brand has thrived in tough times.

the Eco-warrior
For people with a brain and public spirit, this is a winner: good-looking, affordable and cheap to run. Well done!

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Perrys Price
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10 60 Vauxhall Corsa
1.2 S 3dr [A/C] Black, 12,628 miles
Perrys Price
£6,755

Perrys Value Cars from £3,995

08 58	Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 Design 5dr Ext Pack, Blue, 33,733 miles, Was £5495	Now £4,995
10 60	Mitsubishi Colt 1.3 CZ2 Black, 45,000 miles	£4,995
10 60	Chevrolet Spark 1.2 LS 5dr Blue, 5,093 miles	£5,995
08 58	Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Elite Silver, 25,146 miles	£6,245
10 60	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Energy 3dr White, 39,742 miles	£6,295
11 61	Ford Ka Zetec 3dr White, 16,351 miles, Was £6995	Now £6,375
10 60	Vauxhall Agila 1.0 Club 5dr (A/C), Blue, 5,550 miles	£6,495
10 10	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Energy 3dr Silver, 15,644 miles	£6,495
08 08	Vauxhall Astra Twintop 1.6 Air Silver, 20,739 miles	£6,495
10 60	Fiat Punto Evo 1.4 GP 3dr Blue, 17,535 miles, Was £6995	Now £6,745
10 60	Vauxhall Agila 1.2 Design 5dr Blue, 5,596 miles	£6,995
10 60	Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv Grey, 31,581 miles	£6,995
10 59	Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec Blue, 30,284 miles	£6,995
08 58	Mercedes A180 CDi CI Blue, 31,221 miles	£6,995
10 60	Peugeot 207 1.4 S 5dr Grey, 5,965 miles	£6,995

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg(l/100km) for the New Generation Hyundai i10 Range are: Urban 35.3 (8.0) - 55.4 (5.1), Extra-urban 55.4 (5.1) - 76.3 (3.7), Combined 45.6 (6.2) - 65.7 (4.3). Official emission figures range from 142-98/km





THE REAL DEAL: Renault-owned Dacia has brought us the Sandero, above, the pricing of which starts at just £5,995. The Stepway, below, offers a higher spec.

Britain's cheapest car... enough said

Is the price right for Dacia's bargain-basement Sandero supermini? You'll need to do your sums to strike the right deal, writes **Steve Loader**



BUDGET-BRAND Dacia finally arrived in the UK this year.

I say finally, because this Renault-owned Romanian marque has been such a success across Europe that demand for left-hand-drive units is said to have swamped production capacity.

But when the cars did come, we could see what all the fuss was about, because the cheapest Dacia (pronounced *da-chi-ah*) was pegged at £5,995, making it Britain's cheapest by a long way.

You do get what you pay for, though.

The model is Dacia's Sandero supermini, said to be based on the late-1990s Renault Clio, with styling to match.

The Access-entry model has no radio, comes only in white, and you get basic steel wheels and black bumpers and a sluggish 1.2-litre petrol engine – 0-62mph in 14.5 seconds with the sails up.

That said, it has five doors, all the safety kit expected – though the Euro NCAP safety rating was just three stars out of five for an adult occupant and four for a child – and the glassy cabin and boot are capacious.

Ride quality and handling is also balanced to suit buyers who want an A to B motor at the best possible price, so it's comfortable but leans a bit on the bends.

Nevertheless, this is cheap but not particularly cheerful motoring unless your heart is completely ruled by head and wallet.

As ever in the motoring world, though, a tempting base price gets people across the showroom threshold and into higher-spec yet still modestly-priced versions.

Starting at £800 more, mid-range Ambiance trim delivers what we now expect such as radio/CD-player, remote central locking, electric front windows, body-coloured bumpers and wheel trims, plus bonuses such as remote controls for the sound system, USB and AUX inputs and Bluetooth.

The interior also looks less basic, though most materials in the Sandero are durable rather than luxurious.

The best-selling Stepway trim, though, is the flagship Lauréate line (from £7,995) equipped with air-con, cruise-control and electric windows all round, though you pay extra for alloys.

This is where it all become curious, however, because Dacia's hitherto untouchable pricing then starts running into more modern and notable city-car and supermini competition, not to mention higher-quality second-hand examples – some with long and gold-plated warranties.

Look more closely and you can see why the Sandero has thrived, aside from blinding some buyers with that sub-£6,000 headline-grabbing entry price.

The reason is the Renault powertrains. Ignoring the 75bhp1.2 engine that also belongs in the 1990s Clio era, the car is available with Renault's 90bhp three-cylinder 0.9-litre TCe petrol turbo (from £7,595) and the marque's tried and trusted 1.5dCi turbodiesel, also with 90bhp.

The little petrol turbo is nippy and a fun drive, if raucous and whiney.

Driven with some decorum – if you can resist your urges – an average of 50mpg should be normal, too.

But the best buy is the diesel, priced from £8,595 and £9,795 in Lauréate trim – another headliner as it limbos beneath the psychologically important £10,000 mark.

Diesels in small cars are normally a pet hate, but this unit's weight curbs the Sandero's slightly bouncy suspension, delivers a good balance of power and economy – with a combined 74.3mpg on the combined cycle – while low CO_2 emissions make it exempt from road tax and congestion charge.

You might also let your heart have a little sway here by losing the road-tax advantage and opting for the Sandero's off-roader lookalike Stepway spin-off (from £7,995).

There's no 4x4 beneath that funky chunky styling... but lots of fun for your money.

Dacia Sandero Lauréate 1.5DCI

Price:	£9,795
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Road tax:	zero
Best rival:	Skoda Citigo

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FirstGEAR Motoring news



Turning Japanese

SELLING coals to Newcastle comes to mind with news that the VW Golf has become the first imported car to win Japan's Car Of The Year award.

It scored 504 out of a possible 600 points, a record for an import.

The German star was praised for high levels of ride comfort and driving pleasure, excellent safety standards, clean design, high quality and advanced and frugal turbo-charged petrol engines.



A fast new course

VOLVO'S tuning arm, Polestar, has operated under the radar as far as many consumers are concerned, but a scorching new limited-edition V60 Polestar will surely change that.

This stylish fast estate features a throaty 350bhp six-cylinder turbo-charged T6 petrol engine mated with a six-speed auto gearbox with racing-style paddleshifts, plus all-wheel-drive and capability of 0-62mph in 4.9 seconds.

It arrives next June – prices are to be confirmed.



Mazda's market in

MAZDA says it is 'rebooting' its UK market position on the back of a 10 per cent sales lift ahead of forecast and a wave of new products.

Dartford-based Mazda UK says the revival follows recent launches of the Mazda CX-5 and latest Mazda6 and the imminent arrival of the third-generation Mazda3 – all with the Japanese marque's performance- and economy-enhancing Skyactiv technology – plus the promise of more to come.

The New Dacia Range from £5,995*

You do the maths

Best supermini under £12,000 — WHAT CAR? Car of the Year 2013



Dacia Sandero = from **£5,995***



Dacia Logan MCV = from **£6,995***



Dacia Sandero Stepway = from **£7,995***



Dacia Duster = from **£8,995***

Logan MCV shown is a Lauréate 1.2 16V 75 from £8,995.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Dacia range are: Urban 27.2 (10.4)-65.7 (4.3); Extra Urban 40.3 (7)-80.7 (3.5); Combined 35.3 (8)-74.3 (3.8). The official CO_2 emissions for the range are 185-99g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO_2 may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

*Prices shown include delivery to dealer, number plates, 20% VAT, 12-month Government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. Prices shown are Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Prices, which apply to new Dacia vehicles when ordered by 31 December 2013. Metallic paint available at an additional £495.

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RENAULT

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Renault core range are: Urban 27.2 (10.4)–78.5 (3.6); Extra Urban 45.6 (6.2)–94.2 (3); Combined 36.7 (7.7)–88.3 (3.2). The official CO_2 emissions for the range are 178–83g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO_2 may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

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10 Reg	Ford Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 5dr 27,321 miles	£7,623
09 Reg	Ford Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 5dr 37,519 miles	£6,910
60 Reg	Ford Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 5dr 4,474 miles	£8,550
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61 Reg	Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi 115 Zetec 5dr 30,692 miles	£9,892
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13 Reg	Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 140 Titanium Powershift 5dr 11,605 miles	£15,853
62 Reg	Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 163 Titanium X Powershift 5dr 24,765 miles	£15,033
10 Reg	Kia Picanto 1.0 1 5dr 12,476 miles	£4,531
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60 Reg	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SE Auto 5dr 31,401 miles	£8,983
12 Reg	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi [160] 5dr 31,655 miles	£10,443
62 Reg	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi Vx-line [160] 5dr 10,986 miles	£13,461
62 Reg	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi Vx-line [195] 5dr 7,218 miles	£15,851
62 Reg	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi Vx-line Red [160] 5dr 6,548 miles	£14,701
62 Reg	Vauxhall Meriva 1.3 CDTi Tech Line 5dr 9,479 miles	£11,001
61 Reg	Vauxhall Meriva 1.4i 16V Exclusiv 5dr 15,899 miles	£7,523
61 Reg	Vauxhall Meriva 1.7 CDTi 16V [130] Exclusiv 5dr 6,487 miles	£8,881
11 Reg	Vauxhall Meriva 1.7 CDTi 16V [130] Exclusiv 5dr 6,302 miles	£8,393
10 Reg	Vauxhall Zafira 1.6i [115] Energy 5dr 20,785 miles	£6,771
11 Reg	Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 CDTi ecoFLEX Design [110] 5dr 34,282 miles	£8,323
60 Reg	Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 CDTi Exclusiv [120] 5dr 18,564 miles	£7,892
62 Reg	Vauxhall Zafira 2.0 CDTi [165] Tech Line Auto 5dr 12,695 miles	£16,881
62 Reg	Vauxhall Zafira 2.0 CDTi SE 5dr 17,981 miles	£16,121
57 Reg	Volkswagen Beetle 1.6 Luna 3dr 52,466 miles	£5,433
10 Reg	Volkswagen Golf 1.4 TSi SE 3dr 20,601 miles	£9,541
09 Reg	Volkswagen Golf 1.6 S 5dr 50,562 miles	£7,203
10 Reg	Volkswagen Golf 1.6 TDi 105 S 5dr 45,878 miles	£8,381
62 Reg	Volkswagen Polo 1.2 60 Match 5dr 7,629 miles	£9,001
62 Reg	Volkswagen Polo 1.2 60 Match 5dr 5,100 miles	£9,131

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For full terms and conditions go to **http://blog.drive24.co.uk**

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Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Maidstone Road
Rochester, Kent ME1 3EL
Tel: 01634 844008
Email: office@sjwms.co.uk
Website: www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1200 students including 350 in the co-educational Sixth Form
A member of The Williamson Trust

'OUTSTANDING' Ofsted November 2008 – "a buzz of excitement pervades the school"

Two Part-time Associate Staff Required

Cover Supervisor
NJC Grade D2
£15,039 - £19,126 pro rata

We require a full time Cover Supervisor for 37 hours per week, term time only to start in January 2014. Salary will be NJC D2 point 12. The role is for one term only in the first instance from 6th January 2014 until 14th February 2014.

The school will use the cover supervisor to enhance our pastoral structure and allow teachers to be at the forefront of learning.

- Do you relate well to young people?
- Could you support students at times when they meet barriers to their learning?
- Would you be able to liaise with parents, teachers and other professionals in support of individuals?
- Would you be interested in developing your skills with classes of young people?

Learning Support Assistant
NJC Grade 2
Part time
20 hours per week
£15,039 - £19,126 pro rata

We require a Part-time Learning Support Assistant from January 2014 to cover maternity leave for 20 hours per week, 5 days a week. The successful candidate will work closely with the SENCO at this 'Outstanding' grammar school.

You will be a motivated, conscientious and a reliable person able to work effectively as a member of a team as well as individually. Experience in a similar role would be an advantage.

OFSTED awarded the school an outstanding grade in every category in our most recent inspection, commenting that "students thrive within its distinctive ethos, enabling them to succeed academically and to develop into confident, well-rounded individuals who are prepared extremely well for their future lives."

The School was designated one of the first 100 National Teaching Schools and is a National Support School.

If you are interested in working with bright, talented pupils, then please contact the P A to the Headteacher Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, harrisonj@sjwms.co.uk 01634 844008 or visit our website www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk where further details and an application form can be downloaded.

The Williamson Trust currently consists of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, the Hundred of Hoo Academy, High Halstow Primary Academy, Elaine Primary Academy, All Hallows Primary Academy and finally St James Primary as a co-sponsored academy all providing exceptional career development opportunities.

We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Closing date for applications – 9th December 2013
Interviews will be taking place on 11th December 2013

Aspire – Achieve – Excel

National Teaching School · Medway Partnership School · The Williamson Trust aspire achieve excel · National College National Support School · Ofsted Outstanding 2008-2009

Interview Tips - Be Prepared

This is your chance to excel, if your CV is out of date and poorly presented, or irrelevant to the position for which you are applying, you're unlikely to get an interview.

The perception is that your CV is the one document you're likely to spend a lot of time on - and if you can't get that right, then what does that tell your potential employer about the quality of any other work you might do?

Similarly, if you don't prepare for an interview, what does that say about how you are likely to prepare for presentations, reports, or whatever it is that the job entails.

There are added advantages to preparing.

It calms nerves and gives you confidence.

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ARCHANT Inspiring Communities

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College are currently looking for people to join our busy Creative & Visual Arts department at our Medway Campus.
We currently have vacancies within the following area:

Vocational Skills Tutor
Part Time only (0.5)

Salary: £28,263
pro rata, depending on qualifications and experience

Location: Medway Campas

Closing: 04/12/2013

Ref Number: P091

An experienced teacher is required to teach Level 1 students with a range of learning needs and abilities within a thriving area of the curriculum. You will be required to teach personal and social development as part of a team within a creative arts curriculum. The ideal candidate will have experience of working within FE education, has good knowledge of working with learners at level 1 and is passionate about re engaging learners within education. Experience of employment within the creative arts subject sector would be beneficial

To apply for this position please contact job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application pack.
The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a DBS check.

MidKent College

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For an information Pack or further information please contact Dr Neil Brown Age UK Canterbury, Castle Row, Canterbury CT1 2QY
Tel: 01227 462368 email: neil.ageukcanterbury@gmail.com
Closing date for applications Monday 16th December 2013

invicta
www.theinvictagroup.co.uk

Experienced Quantity Surveyor; Ceilings, Drylining

The Invicta Group (www.theinvictagroup.co.uk) are looking for an experienced quantity surveyor to join their Ceilings, Drylining and Partitions division.

The role will encompass running Ceilings, Dry Lining and Partitions projects ranging from £10,000 to £750,000 in value in the London and Kent areas (projects already secured).

Previous experience in estimating and contracts management an advantage.

Package to be negotiated in line with experience. Company car included - full and current UK driving license essential.

Please send your CV and a brief cover letter to
careers@theinvictagroup.co.uk

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College are currently looking for people to join our busy Creative & Visual Arts department at our Medway Campus. We currently have a vacancy within the following area:

Lecturer in Singing
- Part Time

Anticipated Starting Salary -£25,855 (Pro Rata) depending on qualifications and experience

Medway Campus

Closing: 17/12/2013

An enthusiastic, part time singing teacher is required to work in a dynamic and thriving department. Responsibilities include curriculum delivery of vocal/ singing technique across a range of styles but particularly in relation to musical theatre performance. Working as a course tutor in a college with state-of-the-art resources, the successful candidate will work collaboratively with other lecturers on a wide range of performing arts projects. The candidate should have an industry background, a specialist degree and a teaching qualification. The ability to work as a musical director for productions is desirable.

Interviews will take place the week beginning 13 January. 2014

To apply for this position please contact job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application pack.
The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a DBS check.

MidKent College

Job Vacancies

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Lifeguards and Facilities Assistants - FT
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Reportable to: Centre Manager/Team Leaders

- National Pool Lifeguard Qualification desirable though not essential, as full training will be given.
- Can obtain NPLQ (National Pool Lifeguard Certificate) on our 6th-10th January course.
- Have the ability and attitude to learn multiple functions within the organisation.
- Have the desire to deliver excellent customer service.
- Will comply with the Companies Health and Safety policies.
- Successful candidates will be subject to a full DBS check.

Closing date for all posts 16th December 2013

For full details including pay rates and an application form please visit our website www.yourleisure.uk.com or call Head Office on 01843 868302.

Alternatively you can collect an application form from Dover or Tides Leisure Centres.

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010.

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13(3) AND 13(4) OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT.

Proposed development at LAND NORTH OF THE FINCHES CARAVAN & MAIDSTONE, CHARTWAY STREET, EAST SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3DU

I give notice that Mr R Schroeder

has applied to the MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL for

Change of use of land to a site for 20 log cabins to be used for holiday lettings with hardstanding and associated works (resubmission of MA/12/1361).

And that the application is accompanied by an environmental statement and is a major development as defined in Article 2 (1) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2010.

Application Reference **MA/13/1783**.

Members of the public may inspect copies of the application and environmental statement on the Council's website via www.maidstone.gov.uk or at our Reception at the address below during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm, Saturday 9.00am – 1.00pm) excluding Bank Holidays.

Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement from the offices of the Lee Evans Partnership, St John's Lane, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2QQ (01227 784444) so long as stocks last, at a charge of £15 for a paper copy and free of charge for a CD copy.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should do so via the link on the Council's website www.maidstone.gov.uk or write to the Council, quoting reference **MA/13/1783**, at:-

Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 6JQ

by **26th December 2013**

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THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/13/1607/S - FORSTAL FARM, STOCKETT LANE, COXHEATH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6HA - Change of use of land from agriculture (orchard and open grassland) to tourism use for camping and caravanning with associated utility block and office/store. **Reason: 6**

MA/13/1687/N - VALLEY PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL, HUNTSMAN LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5DT - An outline application with all matters reserved for future consideration for a new 12 court sports hall and ancillary accommodation. **Reason: 6**

MA/13/1729/S - 53/53A, LONDON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8JH - Change of use of offices to house of multiple occupation (HMO). **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1887/S - BELL HOTEL, HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0AY - Erection of 6No dwellings. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/1889/N - OLIVERS ROW, THE STREET, BEARSTED, KENT, ME14 4EL - Single storey extension to dwelling and conversion and extension of garage to form annex. **Reason: 2**

MA/13/1897/N - THE COCK HORSE INN, 39, THE STREET, DETLING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3JT - Listed Building Consent for new signage on public house, including three externally-illuminated signs and eight non-illuminated signs. **Reason: 2, 3**

MA/13/1903/N - THE BLUE HOUSE, CHARTWAY STREET, EAST SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3DN - Replacement of windows and the erection of a rear extension and conservatory. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1909/S - THE BLUE HOUSE, CHARTWAY STREET, EAST SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3DN - Application for listed building consent for the replacement of windows and the erection of a rear extension, conservatory and internal alterations. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1931/N - NEWNHAM COURT SHOPPING VILLAGE, BEARSTED ROAD, WEAVERING, KENT - Demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of site to provide new retail development comprising food store (A1), general A1 retail units, A3 cafes/restaurants and A3 conversion of existing oasthouse with associated highway works, closing up of existing site access, formation of new access via New Cut Roundabout and Newnham Park spine road, associated earthworks, parking and landscaping. **Reason: 6, 8, 9**

MA/13/1934/S - TUDOR BARN, FORSHAM LANE, CHART SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3EP - Erection of an extension to the south elevation. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1943/S - LAND REAR OF THE HARDWICKS AND ELIZABETH HOUSE, GRIGG LANE, HEADCORN, MAIDSTONE, KENT, TN27 9TD - Outline planning application for the erection of a children's' nursery school, 20 residential units (comprising 17 detached, semi-detached and terraced houses and 3 bungalows) and provision of a children's' play area together with off-site highway improvements to the junction of Oak Lane and Wheeler Street (A274). Approval is sought for access, appearance, layout and scale with landscaping as a reserved matter. **Reason: 6, 7, 9**

MA/13/1949/S - MIREMBE, CLAYGATE ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6BD - Removal of render and replace with weatherboarding to match the existing; Removal, of plywood shutters on two front first floor windows Erection of satellite dish to the rear. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1952/N - NEW BARN CONVERSION AT SOUTHERNDEN, SOUTHERNDEN ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9LL - Single storey side extension and installation of 2 no: conservation style rooflights in existing roof. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1953/N - PROPOSED KENT CLINIC INSTITUTE, NEWNHAM PARK, BEARSTED ROAD, WEAVERING, KENT - Application for the removal of condition 2 of MA/09/0973 (Application for amendments to MA/07/0382 (Tertiary Medical Centre comprising a complex of eight buildings ranging from two to four storeys, car parking, landscaping, access road and associated highways improvements) being changes to building names, minor increase in building footprints, changes to building functional requirements, changes to approach and parking, changes to energy plant and oxygen plant, improvements to the environment and development of elevation materials). Condition 2 states: No development hereby permitted shall be occupied unless and until the completion and opening to traffic of a scheme of improvements generally shown on drawing no. HTT91271A/1080.1/1A, (or such other scheme of works substantially to the same effect which has first been approved in writing by the Secretary of State for Transport (in consultation with the Local Highway Authority) and thereafter approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority). **Reason: 6**

MA/13/1975/S - LAND SOUTH OF, WALLIS AVENUE, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Application for the variation of condition 8 (landscaping) of permission MA/12/1051 (Erection of 18 flats and 51 houses together with 225m² of community/commercial space) to substitute the approved landscape plans with amended planting showing tree species substitution. **Reason: 6**

MA/13/1981/N - LEEDS CASTLE, ASHFORD ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1PL - A planning application for the extension of existing causeway rag stone wall. **Reason: 1, 7**

MA/13/1985/N - MILLSTREAM HOUSE, BOARLEY LANE, SANDLING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3DD - A planning application for the erection of a side and rear extension and infilling of front balcony with new dormer window along with a new front porch. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1986/N - THORNHAM FRIARS, PILGRIMS WAY, THURNHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3LN - Application seeking planning permission for change of use of former coach house to provide single dwelling with associated parking and amenity space. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1987/N - THORNHAM FRIARS, PILGRIMS WAY, THURNHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3LN - An application for listed building consent for conversion of existing building to provide a two bedroom dwelling. **Reason: 3**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
8 - Application is the subject of an Environmental Assessment.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **22nd December 2013**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 8th December 2013.


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Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 23 DECEMBER 2013

SW/13/0914:
Proposed ménage for private use and associated fencing. - Whipstakes Farm, Stockbury Valley, BREDGAR; **REASON 3**

SW/13/1363:
Advertisement Consent for 1 non-illuminated fascia sign with built up letters. 1 replacement internally illuminated projecting sign panel - New Look Retailers Ltd, Unit 1, 90-102 High Street, SHEERNESS; **REASON 1**

SW/13/1395:
Application for variation of conditions 8 (inspection and maintenance regime), 14 (shadow flicker mitigation), and 25 (health & safety inspections) of planning permission SW/11/1607. - Port of Sheerness, Isle of SHEPPEY; **REASON 3**

SW/13/1398:
115m² rear extension along with changes to car park, entrance/ exit and shopfront - Former Focus Store, 52 West Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASONS 2 & 6**

SW/13/1404:
Increase in height of east wing of property by 1.2m & insertion of 2 front and rear dormer windows to provide additional accommodation - Spinnaker Reach, Bounds Lane, BOUGHTON; **REASON 1**

SW/13/1419:
Proposed four bedroom detached house with associated parking (amendments to previously approved application SW/12/0867) - Land adjacent 157 Peregrine Drive, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 4**

SW/13/1434:
Demolition of rear conservatory and rear porch removal of dangerous chimney. First floor rear extension and internal works reinstatement of front door on front corner - 4 Napleton Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/1441:
Redevelopment of the Old Cold Store Site to provide 14 dwellings - The Old Cold Store, South Street, SELLING; **REASON 3**

SW/13/1444:
Proposed single storey rear extension, loft conversion and replacement brick boundary wall to the front boundary - 5 Napleton Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/1451:
Change of use from shop (Use Class A1), and residential flats (Use Class C3) to public house (Use Class A4), extension, external seating area, new roof top plant, new shopfront and other associated works - 22-24 High Street, SHEERNESS; **REASON 1**

SW/13/1455:
Outline planning application for the residential development (of up to 500 houses) - Land at Harps Farm, Parcels D,E,F & G, Thistle Hill, MINSTER; **REASONS 3 & 4**

SW/13/1458:
Listed Building Consent to demolish an internal cupboard and pier at rear of the cupboard to open up the family room area - 5 Ospringe Place, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/1462 & SW/13/1463:
Retrospective consent for two 1.2m microwave dishes installed at a height of 40m on the existing 110m tower, associated cabling and the installation of a small equipment cabin at ground level - MOD Dunkirk, Courtenay Road, DUNKIRK; **REASON 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

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DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING APPLICATIONS
LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS
CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/13/00986 Variation of condition 23 of planning permission DOV/98/00686 to allow the movement of delivery vehicles and/or unloading between the hours of 06.00 - 22.00 on Mondays to Saturdays and 08.00 to 19.00 Sundays (Section 73 application)
Aldi Foodstore, Cherry Tree Avenue, Dover, CT16 2NL **MAJ**

DOV/13/00984 Erection of a single storey rear extension, installation of replacement windows and doors to rear
5 Upper Strand Street, Sandwich, CT13 9EE **LCN**

DOV/13/00985 Erection of a single storey rear extension, installation of replacement windows and doors to rear and associated internal alterations
5 Upper Strand Street, Sandwich, CT13 9EE **LCN**

DOV/13/01005 Erection of a two storey side extension
1 Catherine Cottages, Alkham Valley Road, Alkham, Dover, CT15 7BX **RSLC**

DOV/13/00990 Erection of a replacement clubhouse and creation of associated car parking
Deal Town Football Club, Mill Road,(St Leonards Road), Deal, CT14 9AU **MAJ**

DOV/13/00833 Conversion of former store building to form dining room and link to main building (Plot 1) as part of conversion
Former Lagan Restaurant, 60 The Street, Ash, Sandwich, CT3 2EW **LCN**

DOV/13/00834 Conversion of outbuilding to form a dining room and erection of a link to connect with 60 The Street, (Plot 1)
Former Lagan Restaurant, 60 The Street, Ash, Sandwich, CT3 2EW **LCN**

DOV/13/00852 Installation of double glazing within existing window frames and doors
8 The Old Gymnasium, Halliday Drive, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7AX **LCN**

DOV/13/00853 Installation of double glazing within existing window frames and doors
8 The Old Gymnasium, Halliday Drive, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7AX **LCN**

DOV/13/00965 Erection of a single storey rear extension and removal of chimney stack
27 Union Road, Deal, CT14 6EA **LCN**

DOV/13/00966 Erection of a single storey rear extension, removal of chimney and internal alterations
27 Union Road, Deal, CT14 6EA **LCN**

Reason for Advert Codes:-
LCN – Listed Building in a Conservation Area **MAJ** – Major Development
RSLC – Affects the setting of a Listed Building, a Conservation area and a public right of way
Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent **within 21 days** marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. Any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/0953/SH# - 25 High Street Lydd Romney Marsh Kent TN29 9AH - Listed building consent for the insertion of a suspended ceiling , the lining of internal walls, the Infilling and enlargement of existing openings and creation of a new openingall to ground floor.

Y13/1172/SH - 1 Albion Villas Folkestone Kent CT20 1RP - Crown reduction of a Beech tree situated within a conservation area.

Y13/1186/SH - 23 Stade Street Hythe Kent CT21 6DA - Erection of a single storey rear extension.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

† - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

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Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//13/02172/FUL: 19 Victoria Park, Herne Bay, CT6 5BJ Replacement of natural slate roof covering with interlocking reconstituted/artificial slates. **Applicant: Mr K Davis** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/02181/FUL: 13 Arkley Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5SL Replacement of existing timber framed windows with new uPVC windows to front of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr P Clarke** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/02204/FUL: Bulls Head, 9 The Street, Adisham, CT3 3JJ Demolition of existing public house and erection of five dwellings and parking **Applicant: Mr K Stampe** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/02206/FUL: 48 Northgate, Canterbury, CT1 1BE Change of use to ale and cider house (Use Class A4). **Applicant: Mr Robson** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/02208/FUL: 31 Norman Road, Canterbury, CT1 3LX Loft conversion with rear dormer and rooflights to front roofslope. **Applicant: Dr R and Mrs L Jolliffe** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/02211/FUL: 2 Joy Lane, Whitstable, CT5 4LS Demolition of existing single-storey rear extensions and erection of two-storey rear extension and single-storey sun room. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Keam** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/02234/FUL: 1 Oast Cottages, Riverside, Chartham, CT4 7JS Construction of a two bay garage. **Applicant: Mr Mitchell** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/02235/VAR: Bridge Methodist Church, Patrixbourne Road, Bridge, CT4 5BP Proposed changes relating to condition 02 including changes to materials of existing building, specifically roof and walls and the addition of architectural details which will affect the appearance of the original building including a porch and bellcote. Change of position of type of window detailing that has been proposed for the extension. **Applicant: Mr W Howe** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/02247/TPO: Chaucer Court, New Dover Road, Canterbury Works to fell Yew tree subject of TPO No 3, 1970. **Applicant: Leisure Grounds Maintenance Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/02253/ADV: 8 St George's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2SR Internally-illuminated hanging and fascia sign. **Applicant: Warren James Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/02254/FUL: 8 St George's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2SR Alterations to shopfront including addition of roller shutter. **Applicant: Warren James Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be submitted via public access on the planning pages of the website **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc** to arrive on or before **Monday 6 January 2014.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 6 December 2013

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/03466/FULL Burrs Hill Farm Horsmonden Road, Brenchley
- Minor material amendment - Replacement agricultural storage building incorporating controlled atmosphere fruit stores - vary drawing no. ENQ/1153/02A to show clear perspex corrugated roof lights on the north roof elevation and the size of the roller shutter door enlarged to allow HGVs to reverse into the building. Variation of wording of condition 13 – to all movements of heavy goods vehicles associated with the use of the cold stores in the building hereby permitted shall be restricted to 7am to 7pm on Mondays to Saturdays and 8am to 4pm on Sundays and bank holidays (TW/13/00215 refers) (MAJOR)

13/03428/LBC 35 Mount Ephraim Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Listed Building Consent: Creation of a toilet at ground floor level (LB)

13/03489/HOUSE Great Owl Castlemaine Oast, Horsmonden
- Outbuilding for use as gym/pool (LB)

13/03396/FULL Little Scotney Farm Land And Buildings Hastings Road, Lamberhurst
- Retrospective - Change of use of farm buildings to equestrian use (LB)

13/03508/LBC 3 Berkeley Place Berkeley Road, Pantiles & St Marks
- Listed Building Consent: Change of use to form two dwellings within the existing envelope by the enlargement on two floors above of the self contained flat at lower ground floor level (LB)

13/03517/HOUSE Croft House 5A Frant Road, Pantiles & St Marks
- Two-storey side extension (CA)

13/03521/FULL 3 Berkeley Place Berkeley Road, Pantiles & St Marks
- Change of use to form two dwellings within the existing envelope by the enlargement on two floors above of the self contained flat at lower ground floor level (LB) (CA)

13/03356/HOUSE 12 Princes Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park
- Loft conversion with dormer at rear and velux windows at front (CA)

13/03390/HOUSE Creggans 2 Dunorlan Park, Park
- Double garage (CA)

13/03519/HOUSE Little Woodlands Pembury Road, Park
- Single-storey front extension and creation of new parking area (CA)

13/03479/HOUSE South View Queen Street, Sandhurst
- Retrospective - Ancillary building to be used as secure storage and studio/workshop (CA) (LB)

13/03531/FULL Salomons Centre David Salomons Estate, Southborough Town Council
- Erection of hotel building in the Walled Garden, including demolition of two existing buildings and creation of new car park (LB) (MAJOR)

13/03534/LBC Salomons Centre David Salomons Estate, Southborough Town Council
- Listed Building Consent - Erection of hotel building in the Walled Garden, including demolition of two existing buildings and creation of new car park (LB)

13/03019/LBC Broomlands Broom Lane, Speldhurst
- .Listed Building Consent - Damp remedial repairs in laundry room including taking up an area of ground floor and forming a new concrete floor (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 7 December 2013

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 (AS AMENDED)

KCC/SW/0346/2013 – Proposed development at Unit 15B, Ridham Dock Industrial Estate, Ridham Dock Road, Ridham, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8SR

SITA UK Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the variation of condition 9 of planning permission SW/11/548 (use of building 15B to install and operate materials recycling facility (MRF) and a refuse derived fuel (RDF) facility and to use existing weighbridge, weighbridge office, site office and washroom/toilets to the south of building 15a) to allow an increase of HGV movements from 58 to 98 (49 in and 49 out) for a temporary period of 12 months.

You may view the application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent. ME10 3HT

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 8 December 2013

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY - IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT
FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (RESTRICTED BYWAY EE485 AT STOURMOUTH) DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER NO. 2, 2013

The above Order was made on 11th November 2013 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and supersedes the Kent County Council (Restricted Byway EE485 at Stourmouth) Definitive Map Modification Order 2013. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding a Restricted Byway (and upgrading the affected sections of Public Footpaths EE133 and EE129 to Restricted Byway status) which commences at the northernmost end of Church Lane at West Stourmouth (NGR TR 2562 6308) and runs in a north-easterly through south-easterly direction for 1.25km to a junction with Plucks Gutter at East Stourmouth (NGR TR 2662 6301). The route has a width of 4 metres for the first 130 metres of its length from Church Lane at West Stourmouth, then a width of 3 metres for the next 530 metres, followed by a width of 2 metres for the next 150 metres and finally a width of 2.6 metres for the final 460 metres to its junction with Plucks Gutter at Heronsgate Farm. All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent Ct16 3PG or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there at the price of £5.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Ms. Melanie McNeir at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than Wednesday 22nd January 2014. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 8th December 2013**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

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To advertise in this section 01303 817056

HIGHWAYS – CANTERBURY AREA

SOUTH BARHAM ROAD, BARHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow sewer repair works to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of South Barham Road, Barham.

A closure is planned to commence from 11 December with estimated completion by 20 December 2013.

South Barham Road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with The Causeway.

The alternative route is via South Barham Hill, Derringstone Hill and Derringstone Street.

SWEECHBRIDGE ROAD, HERNE BAY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER DECEMBER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to plane and resurface the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Sweechbridge Road, Herne Bay.

It is planned Sweechbridge Road will be closed from Friday 13 December 2013 at 19:00 hours through to the afternoon of Sunday 15 December, re-opening once the works have been completed. Due to the nature of the works, it is unlikely the road can be re-opened outside working hours.

The closure is in the vicinity of the junction with Neville Road, with no through access between A299 Thanet Way and Reculver and Beltinge.

The alternative routes are as follows

Northbound (towards Reculver) via Heart in Hand Road, A299 Thanet Way and off-slip, Margate Road (South), Margate Road Interchange, Margate Road (North) and Reculver Road

Southbound (from Reculver) via Reculver Road, Margate Road (North), A299 Thanet Way and Sweechbridge Road

HIGHWAYS – DOVER AREA

NIGHTINGALE ROAD, DOVER
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit northbound traffic on part of Nightingale Road, Dover.

A northbound closure is planned to commence from 9 December 2013 for up to 2 weeks, with the possibility of an additional week's closure from 6 January 2014, subject to progress with the works.

Nightingale Road will be closed to northbound traffic between the junctions with Barton Road and Heathfield Avenue, with no access into it from Barton Road.

The alternative route is via Minerva Avenue and Heathfield Avenue.

Southbound traffic is unaffected, and will still be able to still exit into Barton Road.

NORTHBOURNE ROAD, GREAT MONGEHAM, DEAL
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a water supply to a new development, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Northbourne Road, Great Mongeham, Deal.

A closure is planned to commence from 9 December 2013 for up to 3 days. Due to the nature of these works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside normal working hours.

Northbourne Road will be closed in the vicinity of Old Barn Cottage. Access remains from either direction up to where the road is closed, but no through access.

The alternative route is via Willow Road, Deal Road and The Street.

HIGHWAYS – MAIDSTONE AREA

BROOMFIELD ROAD, BROOMFIELD & KINGSWOOD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to the culvert, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Broomfield Road, Broomfield & Kingswood, on or after 9 December 2013 for up to 10 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between A20 Ashford Road and Park Barn Road.

The alternative route is via A20 Ashford Road, Chegworth Road, Lenham Road and Gravelly Bottom Road.

B2163 UPPER STREET, LEEDS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2163 Upper Street, Leeds, on or after 24 December 2013 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via B2163 Lower Street/Penfold Hill, A20 Ashford Road, Willington Street, A274 Sutton Road and B2163 Leeds Road.

(BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS)
VARIATION NO.18 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

The Kent County Council, in exercise of their powers and under Sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 44, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, hereby makes the following Order:-

The effect of the proposed named Order (Waiting Restrictions) will introduce new or to amend existing waiting restrictions in the following length or lengths of road (in this part of the notice DYL means waiting to be prohibited at all times by double yellow lines);

ARMSTRONG ROAD, MAIDSTONE

1) On the north side of the road;
 From its junction with Postley Road in an easterly direction for a distance of 199 metres
2) On the south side of the road;
 From its junction with Postley Road in an easterly direction for a distance of 226 metres

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ, between 8.30am and 5.00pm and at Maidstone Borough Council Offices, Maidstone Gateway, King Street, Maidstone, during normal opening times.

Anyone wishing to support the new proposal or object to the proposed Order should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 30th day December 2013.

(VARIOUS ROADS, BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE)
(WAITING RESTRICTIONS) VARIATION
NO.17 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the proposed named Order (Waiting Restrictions) will introduce new or to amend existing waiting restrictions in the following length or lengths of road (in this part of the notice DYL means waiting to be prohibited at all times by double yellow lines);

MAIDSTONE:

Bower Lane; DYL's, western side, from its junction with Tonbridge Road to its junction with Upper Fant Road in a southerly direction.

Bower Lane; DYL's, eastern side, from its junction with Tonbridge Road in a southerly direction for a distance of 38 metres.

And DYL's, from a point 27 metres south of its junction with Evelyn Road for a distance of 6 metres in a southerly direction.

And DYL's, from a point 10 metres north of its junction with Newton Close to a point 20 metres south of its junction with Newton Close.

And DYL's, from its junction with Bower Place in a northerly direction for a distance of 12 metres.

Full details are contained in the proposed Order, any Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order, a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order and maps indicating the location and effect may be examined at the Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX and at the Kent County Council Highways, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD during normal office hours.

Anyone wishing to support the new proposal or object to the proposed Order should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to MHF@kent.gov.uk,by noon on Monday 30th December 2013.

HIGHWAYS – SEVENOAKS AREA

MANOR ROAD, HARTLEY AND LONGFIELD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of detailed railway bridge examination works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Manor Road, Hartley and Longfield, on or after 22nd December 2013 for up to 1 night from the hours of 02:00am until 06.35am or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed near Manor Farm and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: from Manor Road, Hartley Bottom Road, Main Road, Manor Road and vice versa.

HIGHWAYS – SHEPWAY AREA

CASTLE HILL AVENUE, FOLKESTONE
(PROHIBITION OF WAITING)
TEMPORARY ORDER DECEMBER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow safe access to a temporary site entrance, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit waiting on part of Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone.

Waiting will be prohibited on both sides of the northbound carriageway of Castle Hill Avenue, from a point level with the northern boundary of the offices of Smith-Woolley & Perry northwards to the existing entrance to Ingles Manor.

Waiting will be prohibited at any time within the following periods

Mondays to Fridays from 07:00 hours to 18:00 hours each day

Each Saturday from 07:00 hours to 13:00 hours

These restrictions take effect from Monday 9 December 2013 with an anticipated end date of September 2014.

The restrictions will be indicated by relevant No Waiting signage and single yellow lines (possibly initially No Waiting cones) on site.

HIGHWAYS – THANET AREA

SURREY ROAD, CLIFTONVILLE, MARGATE (TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during the construction of new dwellings, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily suspend the One-way Traffic Order in respect of part of Surrey Road, Cliftonville, Margate.

The One-way Order will be suspended to allow construction traffic to exit northbound from Surrey Road onto B2051 Eastern Esplanade.

The section of Surrey Road affected is from a point level with the southern boundary of 4 Surrey Road northwards to the junction with Eastern Esplanade.

This applies solely to vehicles involved in the construction of new dwellings on the site of the former Hotel Leslie, when the specific signage is in place.

To allow space for construction vehicles to exit, waiting will be prohibited on both sides of Surrey Road, from a point level with the southern boundary of 4 Surrey Road northwards to the junction with Eastern Esplanade.

Waiting will be prohibited at any time Mondays to Fridays, from 07:00 hours to 18:00 hours each day.

These restrictions commence from 9 December 2013 onwards, with an estimated completion in May 2014. The restrictions will be indicated by the relevant signage and single yellow lines on site.

THE VALE, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow works to be safely carried out to remove trees near a railway bridge, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of The Vale, Broadstairs.

A closure is planned for Saturday 14 December 2013 from 08:30 hours to 20:00 hours, with the road re-opened as soon as works are completed.

The Vale will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge, with access from either direction as far as the bridge, but no through access.

The alternative route is via Ramsgate Road and Luton Avenue.

HIGHWAYS – TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

BARDEN ROAD, SPELDHURST
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a carriageway change of priority, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Barden Road, Speldhurst, on or after 9 December 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The whole length of the road will be closed.

The alternative route for westbound traffic is via B2176 Penshurst Road, Poundsbridge Lane, Poundsbridge, Penshurst Road and Speldhurst Road and for eastbound is via B2176 Penshurst Road/Bidborough Ridge, A26 London Road, Speldhurst Road, Etherington Hill and Speldhurst Hill.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 8th Decmber 2013**

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 03000 418181 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

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Change of scenery doing sprint star world of good

Adam Gemili switched coaches this autumn and is now working with the nation's best sprinters in Loughborough. He talks to **Greg Miles** about what the move is doing for his development and what he is hoping for from next season.



ACTION: Gemili takes time out of his schedule to help out as a new ambassador for the Jaguar Academy of Sport

THEY say a change can be as good as a rest, not that Adam Gemili is in any mood for putting his feet up at the moment.

The sprint star feels he is reaping the benefits of a new coaching environment after switching mentors this autumn.

The Dartford sensation, who has gone from non-league footballer to world junior champion and Olympian in the last 24 months, has partly switched his regime to Loughborough.

There he joins Britain's current number-one 100-metres man James Dasalou under the tutelage of Steve Fudge.

It comes after he decided to split from previous coach Michael Afilaka, with whom he had worked since January last year, as the pair could not agree on a way forward for his development.

There is no animosity between the two but a mutual respect built over the last few years that has seen Gemili come from nowhere to taking praise from Usain Bolt for his rapid rise to stardom.

"Myself and Mike had different ideas about how to move forward. I just wanted a bit more openness and input in what happened," said the 20-year-old.

"Unfortunately, we couldn't come to an understanding. I have taken a new direction with Steve Fudge."

Gemili, who was playing for Thurrock in the Ryman League on loan from League Two Dagenham & Redbridge when he decided to switch to athletics, feels that the new set-up can help challenge him in a new way.

That will come with having the nation's number one in Dasalou alongside him on the track. That's not to say, though, that every day will be a competition.

"I'm really enjoying the training with James Dasalou, who is doing great things in the 100m. I'm with a really good group of guys," said Gemili.

"The guys I was training with before are at a very good level, but this is very different. I can push myself and challenge myself in a new way.

"We don't compete against each other – we all work together to help each other improve."

He continues to use the Lee Valley training centre in north London three days a week, while spending another three days a week at Loughborough.

It adds another pressure on his already hectic lifestyle, which has been added to by PR commitments over the last year, including a race against a robot.

The itinerary is further increased by his giving advice to fellow sportsmen and women, including Wasps rugby-club winger Tom Varndell.

"Things take a bit of juggling sometimes," he said. "You find a lot of other sports are interested in sprinting because it's a big part of most sports. It's great that they come to me for advice."

There is also his degree at the University of East London to think about. However, he manages to get around not going to lectures by catching up in his down-time.

"I spend half the week at home as I still live with my parents, who have been a massive support in my life," said the former Dartford Grammar School student.

> **"The guys I was training with before are at a very good level, but this is very different. I can push myself and challenge myself in a new way."**
>
> **Adam Gemili,** Dartford sprinter

"They like to be involved and I want them to come to events I'm involved in.

"A lot of my university lectures are put online for me and I listen to podcasts of lectures, too," he said. "They are very accommodating and help me. If you manage your time well and you're committed, it can be done."

It is all a far cry from his previous regime, which would see him up at 6am to train at Lee Valley before heading off to lectures for the day.

On the track there is still more focus on improving his technique than desperately trying to beat the clock, which is understandable given the potential career ahead of him.

After all, there can be a danger of peaking too soon, as many British teenage sprinters have found out in the past, with plenty of potential apparently going to waste.

There have been dozens of medals won at international junior athletics competitions in recent decades that simply have not been reproduced in the senior environment.

That is not to say Gemili will fall foul of such a trend, though, as he continues to take a level-headed approach to what he does.

"I never really think about setting times – when I run I don't think I would like to break British records. I don't work like that," said Gemili, who is more interested in his development as an athlete.

"I need to improve and learn my sport – if I do that I hope the times will come. It's a question people are going to ask. I'm not bored by it, but I just think about my development."

Gemili initially excelled at the 100m but proved he could also cut it at the top in the 200m during the World Athletics Championship in Moscow, where he just missed out on a medal, finishing fifth in the final, a fraction of a second outside a podium place.

It stunned superstar and race-winner Bolt, who labelled Gemili's performance as "outstanding".

Gemili has no desire to choose between the two distances just yet and in fact hopes to mirror the approach taken by the greats such as Bolt and take on both one day.

"I'm pretty open-minded," he said. "The best sprinters are able to go to the major championships and run the 200m as well.

"I'm still trying to learn from both. I'm still going to practise that. I think it is going very well.

"I'm hoping that when I'm older and fitter I can go to a championship and do both, like the Jamaicans.

"Both races are very different, so you just work with whatever you have to learn.

"You develop that fundamental fitness. It's a different type of running. It takes a lot of learning and you have to put in a lot of hours."

The nation still has two and a half more years to cherish the memories from London 2012, with Rio fast approaching on the horizon.

Between now and then there is plenty of hard work to get through and the immediate future, post- Christmas, promises plenty of new experiences for Gemili.

One of those, the Commonwealth Games, should prove to be like a mini London 2012, with it being sort of on home turf, in Glasgow.

"My main thing is the outdoor season and the Commonwealth and European championships," he said.

"I do want to do some indoor runs for the experience, though. The Commonwealth Games will be great with home fans there."

Gemili is the latest ambassador for the Jaguar Academy of Sport, which aims to nurture and inspire British sporting excellence.

He recently helped out at workshops sharing his tips on training strategies.

"It's good, I like sharing my experiences," said Gemili. "I have had so many good people that have shared things with me and it really does help. It can give you that inspiration you need."

He is in good company at the academy, joining Hildenborough's Dame Kelly Holmes, who is its patron. She was also at the workshops with Gemili.

"The pathway from being a talented junior athlete stepping up to senior level to become world class is full of challenges and the commitment and hard work required year after year cannot be underestimated," said Dame Kelly.

"Coping with injury is something I had to deal with for seven years of my senior international career.

"My focus and self-belief got me through, but there were times when I couldn't cope and had to turn to people around me."

■ **For more information, visit www.jaguaracademyofsport.co.uk**

KMI

Picture: BRITISH ATHLETICS



From studs to spikes, Adam is on fast track

Adam Gemili burst on to the athletics scene on June 2 last year when he won the Sparkassen Gala in Regensburg, Germany, in an Olympic qualifying time of 10.23 seconds.

He had only been in athletics for six months, having given up life as a professional footballer with Dagenham & Redbridge; he had also been a trainee at Chelsea and Reading from a young age.

Football was his dream, which he pursued in the winter, but come the summer he was hitting the track, representing Dartford Grammar School and then the county at meets before deciding he had to switch sports eventually.

Three weeks after that run in June last year, he shone again in the heats of the British trials for the Olympics, running 10.11 seconds. Then he clocked a time of 10.08 seconds in the final to become the second-fastest-ever British junior over 100m.

In July he won gold at the World Junior Championships over 100m with a time of 10.05 seconds, breaking the championship record.

At the London Olympics he finished third in his semi-final in a time of 10.06 seconds, narrowly missing out on a place in the final.

He elevated his status to a new level this summer, winning gold in the 100m at the European Under-23 championships in Finland.

Then he firmly established himself as a contender over 200m at the World Athletics Championships in Moscow, running the second-fastest time of any Brit over that distance – 19.98 seconds.

In the final he finished fifth, just a fraction of a second outside a medal place.

So just who is Steve Fudge?

STEVE Fudge is a spring coach for UK Athletics.

He is based at Loughborough and coaches James Dasalou, Britain's number one sprinter, who, after years of injury, was transformed into a sub-ten-second runner by Fudge.

Also under his wing is former youth world 400m champion Chris Clark, Commonwealth 200m gold-medallist Leon Baptiste and amputee sprinter, Jonnie Peacock, who in the summer added the T44 100m crown to his Paralympic title he won in London last year.

Sport Shorts

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Taylor's options shortened as injuries end loan duo's stay

GILLINGHAM have been dealt a double blow with the loss of loanees Elliott Hewitt and John Mousinho through injury.

Mousinho had to come off after 20 minutes in the defeat to Rotherham at the weekend with a hamstring strain and has returned to Preston North End, while Hewitt has returned to Ipswich with a fractured ankle.

Winger Craig Fagan missed the game on Saturday with a knock from the win over Stevenage last week. However, Steven Gregory and Amine Linganzi are nearing a return.

Gills boss Peter Taylor said of Mousinho's injury: "After 20 minutes it's unusual, normally it's an early one or a very late one. He must have warmed up properly as it was all right and then it goes.

"That's a bit of a blow for us and we've been unlucky with him, and for Elliott Hewitt."



OUT: John Mousinho



SHORTLISTED: Asher-Smith, left

Sprinter on shortlist for top award

TEENAGE sprint star Dina Asher-Smith has made the shortlist for the Young Sports Personality of the Year award.

The 18-year-old Blackheath and Bromley runner is one of 10 to make the shortlist, which will be whittled down to three on the Blue Peter TV show on December 12.

The overall winner will then be announced at the awards night in Leeds three days later.

Asher-Smith from Orpington was crowned the 200m European Junior Champion and won the 4x100m relay with a UK junior record time.

She then won a bronze medal at the World Championships in Moscow as a member of the 4x100m relay team, and also as the youngest member of the whole Great British squad at the competition.

Kent derby in FA Trophy for plucky Whitstable Town

WHITSTABLE Town have been handed a Kent derby in the second round of the FA Trophy after continuing their impressive run in the competition.

The Oystermen picked up a 2-1 win at Ryman Premier hosts Hendon and have been given a home tie with Conference South team Ebbsfleet United.

Dover Athletic will play Leamington Spa in the second round after a 3-1 replay victory over East Thurrock.

Tonbridge Angels would have faced Cambridge United, but they were thrashed 4-0 in their replay with St Albans City on Monday.

Conference Premier Dartford also crashed out 1-0 in their replay with Forest Green Rovers. Second-round ties will take place on Saturday, December 14.

Allen recalled by Gills from Lambs

CHARLIE Allen has been recalled from his loan spell at Tamworth.

The Gillingham midfelder went on loan to the Conference Premier side last month but was given a straight red card within eight minutes of coming on as a sub on his debut on November 2.

He has not played since but is in contention, with injuries mounting.

Aston Martins unveiled by Motorbase

WROTHAM-BASED Motorbase Performance will field two Aston Martin Vantage GT3s next season.

The team will put the cars to use in the Avon Tyres British GT Championship and the Blancpain Endurance Series.

The team will also announce their driver line-up in the coming few weeks.

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